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The Alexander Centre in Preston Street, Faversham was once home to the doctor Sir Sidney Alexander, a former mayor of the town for 10 years. Seen as the 'heartbeat' of the town, Swale council has decided not to sell the £675,000 building, but instead to transfer it over three years to a community trust

■ BY JILL HURST

THE historic Alexander Centre will not be sold off but transferred lock, stock and barrel to the Faversham community.

Despite being £5 million in the red, Swale Borough councillors have chosen not to auction off the building because they say it represents the 'heartbeat' of the town's community.

Instead, the property – valued at £675,000 – will be transferred to a trust made up of community volunteers.

The executive branch of Swale council is due to meet tonight to thrash out the finer details of the plan.

Deputy leader of Swale council Gerry Lewin said: "Our plan is to transfer the Alexander Centre over to a community trust in a phased approach over the next three years.

"I suppose the obvious question is why not sell it? However, as an authority we have many assets and this is one which represents an iconic place in the history of Faversham and is at the heart of the community.

"We are here to serve the community and this is what the community has said it wants and the council is committed to allowing the community to run the building.

"This year we will start by transferring the responsibility of the marketing function and internal maintenance. In the long run it is the intention that the building will become the community's asset."

The centre requires expensive internal and external renovation, prompting the cash-strapped authority to investigate a number of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Small firms call on council for more support

EXCLUSIVE

■ BY JILL HURST

A LEADING business organisation has appealed to Swale councillors to honour their election promise and help struggling firms.

The Federation of Small Businesses wants the Conservative-led authority to extend Government procurement with the aim of seeing 25 per cent of all contracts going to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

Chief executive Abdool Kara recently pledged to favour large companies who promised to subcontract work to smaller firms. However, the FSB says the system remains cumbersome and SMEs are missing out on a total spend believed to run into millions of pounds.

FSB spokesman Deb Sen said: "I am very pleased Mr Kara wants to use Swale council's spending power to help the business community.

Mr Sen says the council could massively improve the chances of SMEs by effectively using the South East Business Portal.

The portal is designed to allow the sharing of information about existing contracts and forthcoming tendering opportunities across 74 councils and nine fire and rescue services in the south east region.

Collectively the 74 councils spend £4 to 4.5 billion on goods and services each year.

Mr Sen said only one high value contract opportunity existed on the industry's South East Business Portal for Swale council – meaning SMEs were unlikely to know con-



FAIRER: Deb Sen wants aid for small firms

tracts existed. In addition Mr Sen said there are no historical contracts stored on the portal database so small businesses will never know when tenders are coming up for review – placing them at a distinct disadvantage.

Dave Thomas, head of commissioning at Swale council, said officers were working to address the shortfalls. He added: "I understand that council officers will be meeting with South East Business Portal staff in two weeks' time to understand what we need to do to better utilise this facility to advertise our contracts and address the very points raised by Yoursware.

"The intention is that the council will publicise all contracts and procurements to local businesses, although this won't of course mean that they will win them. We are currently building our contracts database, and are working with our partners across the mid Kent improvement partnership to achieve this. We hope to place this database on the website shortly, but importantly in such a way as to protect commercial confidentiality."

To find out more call Dave Thomas on 01795 417850.

Alexander Centre will continue as town's heartbeat

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
possible options for its future. However continuing to run the centre under the council's sole remit was not seen as financially viable and the option to sell the building was rejected on the grounds of the strength of local feeling.

The Alexander Centre is named after the doctor Sir Sidney Alexander who was mayor of Faversham for a record 10 years (1910-1920), spanning the duration of the First World War. His wartime public service was recognised with a knighthood.

Plaque

Sir Alexander, a pioneer of varicose vein treatment in his London practice, was a GP at his home, Gatefield House in Faversham's Preston Street. The building, now the Alexander Centre, bears a commemorative plaque.

The centre was converted into municipal offices in 1943 and renamed the Alexander Centre in 1977.

A meeting of the Swale council executive will take place in the council chamber at Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne from 7pm tonight. To find out more about the Alexander Centre visit www.faversham.org.

Booze crackdown

UNDERAGE drinkers were left feeling a sick when police confiscated their booze at Gore Court in Sittingbourne.

The group of under 17s were challenged after officers received reports of criminal damage and nuisance. About £32 of alcohol was confiscated and destroyed.

Officers also intervened when a group of youths was reported as causing a nuisance in the Stapelhurst Link Road area.

Alcohol was confiscated and the youngsters were made to clear up the rubbish they had strewn about.

Geraldine Chidley, principal street warden, said: "Children who drink are much more likely to have alcohol abuse problems later in life.

"That is why the community safety partnership see it as such a priority and utilise every opportunity to crack down on youngsters found to be consuming alcohol in Swale."

Recognising the unsung heroes

WHILE players, managers and even referees can dominate the headlines in football, one group of people who keep the whole show on the road are often overlooked.

Particularly at grass-roots level, organised football simply could not happen without the dedication of an army of volunteers working behind the scenes.

Selflessly giving up their free time so others can enjoy the game, they are the glue which holds everything about the sport together.

It is an issue the Football Association are attempting to address by launching a series of community awards which look to recognise the unsung heroes.

One example is Mark Rogers, who won Kent's Outstanding Contribution to Community Football prize



last month for his work as secretary at the Sheppey Sunday League.

In his four years in the role he has helped transform the league's fortunes into a thriving competition.

While acknowledging the award as an honour, Rogers was surprised to receive it.

He said: "It's something I never thought I'd see, you do it because you love what you're doing. I didn't think I was doing anything special, I'm very passionate about grass roots

football. It can be like a part-time job, but you get out what put in."

Lee Suter, football development officer at the Kent County Football Association, put the volunteers' dedication into perspective.

He said: "They are superb and give a tireless amount of hours we can never pay back. You can't put a value on their contribution, without them we would struggle to uphold our high standards."

It is not just ex-players giving something back. A group of teenagers in Kent are involved in the FA Leadership and Volunteering Programme, with Bradley Pay among the first to put in 50 hours.

The 16-year-old said: "I love football and want to be involved as much as I can. I get a lot of happiness seeing the kids I coach enjoying themselves."

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DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Farming World's future in doubt over estate sale

EXCLUSIVE

BY JILL HURST

THE future of Farming World was thrown into doubt this week as the estate where it is based went on the market to meet inheritance tax demands.

Nash Court – a Grade II-listed mansion at Boughton-under-Blean, together with associated buildings and 54 acres of land – went on the market for just over £4 million.

Neither the family nor their estate agents were able to give any assurances about Farming World which is run from land on the estate.

Mrs Maggie Johnson inherited the property with her brother when it was passed down by their late mother.

She said she couldn't confirm what would happen to the park attraction and everyone would "have to wait and see."

However, daughter Georgina said the family had been left deeply upset at having to put the property on the market, adding: "Nash Court has been in the family for a very long time and the decision to put the property on the market has been a very difficult one."

"Since the death of my grandmother my family now have a huge bill to pay in death tax and we can't afford to pay without selling the house."

Farming World has forged a reputation as one of best farm attractions in Kent.

Set in the backdrop of the beautiful Swale countryside, the park is home to a range of ani-

Inheritance tax bill forces sale of Nash Court

mals and is a popular day out for families and schoolchildren.

A spokesman for the family's estate agent Strutt and Parker said: "Nothing is set in stone so we can't say too much with certainty."

"However, our clients are happy to sell just lot one and this would leave Farming World unaffected, but if the whole lot is sold then no one can say what will happen."

The estate has been divided into four lots with lot one – including Nash court, annexe flats, formal gardens and outbuildings, the lodge, farm buildings and about 32 acres of land up for £3.5 million.

Lots 2,3 and 4 – including a lodge house, cherry orchard and 22 acres – is on the market at just over half a million pounds. All four plots are up for sale at £4,075,000 million.

The main house dates back to 1715 when Catholic Thomas Hawkins obtained the property during the reign of Richard II.

To find out more about Nash Court call Strutt and Parker on 01227 451123. To find out about Farming World visit <http://farming-world.com> or call 01227 751144.



Picture: STRUTT AND PARKER

TAXING TIMES: A massive inheritance tax bill has forced the sale of Nash Court where Farming World is based

Cheat scammed almost £7,000 in eight months

A BENEFIT cheat from the Isle of Sheppey has been convicted for swindling taxpayers out of thousands of pounds.

Charlotte Farnham, 24, was ordered to complete 90 hours of community service and pay £200 costs after being found guilty of obtaining benefits totalling £6,879.34 at Maidstone Magistrates Court on Tuesday, June 1.

Farnham, who now lives in Ashford, was living at Invicta Road, Sheerness, at the time of the scam.

The court heard how she had dishonestly obtained £5,132.80 in housing benefit and £906.94 in council tax benefit between July 1, 2007 and February 29, 2008.

Dishonest

She claimed the money as a single person while she living with Mr Lee Baldock. Farnham was also convicted for dishonestly claiming income support.

Speaking after the court case, investigations supervisor at Swale council, Filmer Wellard, said: "This investigation was conducted by officers from the council and the Department of Works and Pensions and demonstrates our continued commitment to working together to target benefit fraud, something that residents rightly demand of a public-serving organisation."

"This case is another example of the importance of reporting changes in circumstances promptly to avoid large overpayments and the possibility of a criminal conviction."

Benefit fraud can be reported via the council's website www.swale.gov.uk, or you can write to Swale Borough Council at Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT.

Traders work together for town centre

A RETAILERS' association in Sittingbourne met last week to discuss how to bring trade to the town.

Twenty business men and women got together at an event organised by the High Street-based Barrow's bakery.

Traders discussed a number of ways to improve the town and fill the empty shops, with ideas including a loyalty card programme.

Cllr John Wright, executive portfolio holder for regeneration, learning and skills at Swale council, attended the event.

He said: "A strong retailers' association is central to making Sittingbourne a vibrant and attractive town that people want to visit."

"If the association is strong and it becomes a good forum for traders to work together and it provides them with a good forum then ideas can thrive. We were very pleased that the event saw new members join the association and that local retailers came up with ideas that they wanted to pursue, such as looking into whether the council's shop local first launch on Sheppey could be adopted in Sittingbourne."

If you want to find out more about the Sittingbourne retail association call Jill Read on 01795 417592 or email jillread@swale.gov.uk.

Marlene badgers to be named the world champion

A DARTS player from Sittingbourne is hoping to be the first woman to win a world championship and bag £10,000 in prize money.

Marlene Badger, 51, nicknamed The Badger, has already made it through to the semi-finals in the inaugural PDC Unicorn World Women's Championship this Saturday.

She is due to compete alongside 32 other players.

Super league player Marlene says while she is happy to have got through to the next round her sights are firmly fixed on the big one.

She said: "I'm very pleased to be through. While I always play one game at a time I'm looking to compete for the £10,000."

"I haven't been too well recently, so I'm very happy, especially as I had a comfortable win."

"This is the first time the PDC have opened up the competition to women, so it would be great to be the first

female world champion crowned in the competition.

"It's a great team sport and I've made such a lot of friends out of it. It's a wonderful hobby."

"There isn't as much money in it as there is for men but that may change in the future."

"I've played a lot of competitions through the years and even went on the television programme Bullseye in 1984, when I won £355."

"I also won in the Kent Super League championship and the champion of champions."

Should Marlene make it through to the final she will be up against the likes of BDO world champion Anastasia Dobromyslova.

Over 500 ladies entered the tournament through Rileys Darts Zone but only two players will qualify for the grand final on Sunday, July 25, at The Winter Gardens in Blackpool.

To find a lady's darts zone near you visit www.rileys.co.uk.

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Labour concern as council executive is doubled in size

■ BY JILL HURST

THE number of executive members on Conservative-led Swale council has increased from five to ten.

The increase has prompted Labour opposition to set up a shadow executive and issue a warning that it will scrutinise activity at the council. However, the cash-strapped authority says the additional cabinet members are necessary to support a modernisation programme led by council leader Andrew Bowles and chief executive Abdool Kara.

Deputy council leader Gerry Lewin believes a larger cabinet office is vital to move the organisation forward.

Mr Lewin said: "Those who criticise the increase fail to recognise that councillors on the executive were working 40 to 60 hours a week and being paid less than the minimum wage. We want to make sure we are champions of business and bring excellence to policy making in the council and we want to make substantial improvements.

"There is a lot of talent at Swale council and a more comprehensive management structure will allow councillors the opportunity to concentrate on specific portfolios and widen the base of work undertaken by the executive.

"Each member of the executive will be accountable to the council leader and for managing their portfolio budget.

"We have seen many changes since setting

Swale council executive

Council leader

Andrew Bowles

Deputy leader and responsible for sustainable planning

Gerry Lewin

Housing

Mark Baldock

Performance and total place

Mike Cosgrove

Finance and budget management

Duncan Dewar-Whalley

Health

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Safer and stronger communities

John Morris

Culture

Bryan Mulhern

Environment and rural affairs

David Simmons

Regeneration, learning and skills

John Wright

up the new management structure and we are delighted in the progress of the new chief executive who is delivering everything he was asked to do. However, as a team we recognise we are just at the beginning of this journey and we all committed to the future."

The basic allowance, which all councillors are entitled to receive, is £3,343 per annum. In addition, executive members receive a special responsibility allowance of £7,020 while the council leader is entitled to £11,700.

Deputy leader of the Labour Party, Roger Truelove, said a shadow executive was necessary to keep a "close eye on what is actually done and achieved."

He added: "At the annual meeting of Swale council, the Labour group expressed caution about the ever-growing size of the Tory executive. Originally made up of five councilors, the executive has regularly grown in size and this year council leader Andrew Bowles has appointed ten executive members, all of whom will receive an allowance.

"We have serious concerns about the continuing growth in the size of the executive.

"The Labour Party is setting up their own unpaid shadow executive, so that individual Labour councilors can keep a close eye on their Tory counterparts."

yoursware

NEWS IN BRIEF

Back to school for truants

TRUANTS on the Isle of Sheppey were rounded up and taken back to school after members of the community safety partnership conducted a crackdown on the island.

Members of neighbourhood policing team and Kent County Council education officers stopped some 67 young people during the day, with 37 being returned to school.

Safer school co-ordinator PC Ann Jones said: "This initiative was not so much about law enforcement but more about ensuring that young people are attending classes and receiving a proper education.

"There is a proven link between lack of attendance and a lack of achievement and this initiative aims to get children back into the classroom as quickly as possible.

"There are also concerns about the welfare of any young person seen out and about on their own and this initiative ensures they are returned to a safe environment."

Art builds responsibility

AN ARTS day featuring painting, sketching collage, sand sculpting and paper making will return to Faversham for the third year.

The open air event will take place in Perry Wood, Selling, on June 20 from 11am and 5pm.

Organisers Perry Wood Arts hope the event will help towards building "community spirit and responsibility toward the environment." The event has been part-funded with £500 contributed by Swale council.

There will be refreshments and parking to the event is free. If you would like to know more see www.perrywoodarts.co.uk.

Boiler replacement hopes

A HEATING company based in Sittingbourne says it wants the new Government to reintroduce the boiler replacement scheme.

Swale Heating is the largest independent heating company in the south of England and director Matthew Edwards says he hopes the forthcoming energy bill will encourage householders to install energy efficient systems.

The last boiler replacement scheme was introduced by the former Labour Government. It enabled householders to claim £400 towards the cost of a new system.



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DEFENDER: Deputy council leader Gerry Lewin

Refurbished loos are open for business

TOILETS at The Forum centre in Sittingbourne have reopened following a fire in the block.

The doors of the men's loos have been renewed, new ventilation bricks have been installed, and the facility has been painted in bright colours. A new hanging has also been donated for the outside of the building.

The ladies' toilet is due to be repainted this week.

The refurbishment was funded with a £1,500 insurance payout.

Spokesman for Swale council, Anne Ryman said: "We are very pleased with the results of the refurbishment, and



expect the ladies will look equally good when finished. We ask that all users respect this property when they use it, so that the toilets can be used to the benefit of all for many years to come."



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<p>Beautiful Northumbrian Gardens Mon 19 - Fri 23 July Half board & includes excursions £295.00</p>	<p>Warner Cricket St Thomas Mon 2 - Fri 6 August Half board & includes excursions £320.00</p>	<p>Houses of Parliament tour & 3 course lunch cruise Friday 27 August £55.00</p>	<p>Wizard of Oz at the London Palladium Wednesday 25 May 2011 £65.00</p>
<p>Discovering Durham Mon 9 - Fri 13 August Half board & includes excursions £285.00</p>		<p>Jersey Boys at the Prince Edward Theatre Tuesday 31 August £60.00</p>	<p>Ladies Day Ascot Thursday 17 June £55.00</p>

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KCC is accused of misleading parents over special needs

■ BY MARIJKE COX

PARENTS of special needs children left without specialist school placements have slammed education officials, claiming they have been misled.

Disheartened parents have argued that after being told by Kent County Council that units catering for primary children with learning disabilities were to close, they have since discovered they are staying open.

But where parents were originally told of the closures, many had to secure places in mainstream schools which do not offer the support of a unit, in preparation for the start of the academic year in September.

Many did not pursue admission for a unit, believing there was no point if closures were imminent.

Deborah Aspland, from Ashford, has

three children with disabilities. Although her youngest has a place at Special Education Needs (SEN) Unit, her daughter is going to a mainstream school after being told by an SEN coordinator at KCC that Linden Grove speech unit in Ashford, was closing.

Ms Aspland said: "We got my daughter into a mainstream school, but now I have found out - through Facebook - that units are in fact available.

"We've decided to see how she gets on in mainstream. She's going in under School Action Plus, which provides support for SEN children, but I'm very angry about the situation."

Units are attached to schools, but children with learning difficulties are given support away from other pupils by specially-trained staff. But with regular mainstream schooling, special needs children are expected to integrate the whole time, with support from teachers.

Ms Aspland is furious that KCC has "quietly" reversed the policy.

Independent education advisor Peter Read said he knew of half a dozen families in the same situation.

Mr Read added the council was looking at phasing out SEN units and instead integrating children to mainstream institutions in what would be called Lead schools, which have specialist provision.

A KCC spokesman said: "A pilot is running in Ashford, Shepway and north west Kent and it is the subject of evaluation. In running the pilot, it was never the council's intention to lose the expertise in our units, but to build on the opportunities for using that expertise to support and build capacity in mainstream schools. At no point were any decisions taken by elected members to close units."

The spokesman added: "If any parent feels disadvantaged because of misinformation, they should contact Kent County Council and we will review their case and do what we can to assist where possible."



Don a tutu in support of hospice

WALKERS are being encouraged to stretch their legs for charity and raise money for sick children.

Children's hospice, Demelza, will stage a sponsored walk in Sittingbourne on July 10 at 10.30pm. The 10km twilight walk has become a tradition in the town with many participants dressing up in pink tutus.

Among those to have already signed up for the challenge is

Demelza worker Natalie Tegg. She said: "We rely on events like our twilight walk to raise funds to continue our hospice support."

"We hope that more and more people will step up to the challenge of walking 10k in a tutu all for a good cause".

Entry to the walk is £15 which includes a tutu, medal and bacon roll. For details or to book head to the events section at www.demelza.org.uk.

Snap up beauty on healthy walk

A COMMUNITY artist will lead a photographic walk through Rushenden.

Sculpture Richard Perry will take time out from his work to lead the walk as part of the north Kent walking festival.

Last year over 1,100 walkers supported 90 walks over a six week period.

The objective of 2010 festival is to encourage young people to get

involved in healthy walks. Those taking part are asked to bring their own digital camera to take photographs. At the end of the walk these will be downloaded and a collage will then be made using all the pictures taken.

The walk will be from 2-4pm on Saturday. Places are free but limited, call 01634 338191 or see www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent to book your place.

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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

EDDIE JOHNSON



Q Tell us a little bit about yourself?

A I have been a member of Queenborough Yacht Club for about four years, and Rear Commodore for two. I was nominated onto the committee after my first year of membership when I was appointed publicity officer. I also collect money from visiting yachts who use the all-tide landing. I am married to Ann and we will have been married for 23 years in June. Both of us were brought up on the island. We met when we were both working in an amusement arcade in Leysdown and married the following June.

I have worked for St Regis paper in Kemsley for about twenty one years.

Q What is a Rear Commodore?

A In my role as Rear Commodore I am expected to give a report on social events, trips and promotion of the club. I am responsible for the organisation of the open day which is on July 10 this year. I also help on the all-tide landing at times, though John Drop, the treasurer, does an incredible amount of work on this. I am very much involved in the redevelopment of Queenborough Harbour, and the positive impact to the local economy.

Q Tell us a bit about the club.

A Queenborough Yacht Club was initially the cruising division of the Isle of Sheppey

Sailing Club (IoSSC). The club split in the seventies, with the IoSSC moving to their new clubhouse in Marine Parade Sheerness. Soon after, a few members of the cruising division clubbed together and bought the Castle Inn, and Queenborough Yacht Club was born.

Q Where does your love of sailing come from?

A I was first taken out sailing in a dinghy when I was one year old, so I have basically been brought up on boats. When I was about seven my father built a twenty seven foot catamaran and after that things got more exciting.

I crewed for my father until I reached seventeen but my heart was no longer into sailing so I simply turned away from it.

It was just four years ago that I started thinking about sailing again. I heard from a neighbour that Queenborough Yacht Club had a boat they were prepared to hire out, and I thought that would be ideal because Ann and I could try it without losing the cost of purchasing a boat.

Q Do you have to be rich to enjoy sailing?

A Sailing is not as dear as people might think. Like every type of recreation it can be as expensive as you make it. But in reality you could buy a yacht for a little as £1000 which would include sails, engines, navigation lights as well as sleeping berths, a cooker and toilet. It costs about £620 per year for a moor-

ing and about £50 for a river licence. I pay about £140 for insurance and my boat is insured for £10,000. Other than that there is routine maintenance.

Q What is the Swale Regatta?

A The Swale Regatta is an annual event of three days of racing. The organising clubs are Queenborough Yacht Club, Hollowshore Cruising Club, Conyer Cruising Club, Whitstable Cruising Club and Whitstable sailing Club. There are always three races, one on each day, with one race always running around the north side of the island. The races are open to anyone regardless whether they are members of a club. The only requirement for entry is a VHF radio and a motor capable of getting the boat to safety.

Q What's special about the Swale Regatta this year?

A This year is a special year for the Swale Regatta. It is twenty five years old this year and as a result we have added a couple of extra trophies: the novice cup and the Swale Media Challenge cup, which will be awarded to the member of the media whose boat they are crewing on comes first between the media-crewed yachts.

As it is the twenty fifth year we will also be awarding keepers to all of the winning skippers.

Q & A

Eddie Johnson talks to **Jill Hurst** about his job of Rear Commodore at Queenborough Yacht Club, his passion for the sport and the upcoming 25th anniversary of the Swale Regatta on June 11 to June 13

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From market research to swimwear model

How trying to find a size 16 costume led PA Tonia to be photographed by Mary McCartney for Speedo's new line

PERSONAL assistant Tonia Brundell is making a big splash as the face of Speedo's latest swimwear range.

Designed to flatter three key female body shapes, the Speedo Shapeline collection is described as 'the closest to made-to-measure swimwear on the market'.

Brundell, 35, from Ashford, was one of three ordinary women chosen to model the new swimsuits and she was delighted to be a part of the campaign.

"I was absolutely flattered, beyond anything," she said. "It was extremely exciting and something outside my normal day-to-day life. I had never done anything like it. I was really proud to be involved."

In a society obsessed with skinny models and physical perfection, it seemed unlikely that, at size 16, Brundell would be asked to model swimwear. But she came to Speedo's attention when she applied to take part in market research, as part of the

■ BY JANE CONNOLLY

company's efforts to design swimwear for 'real' women.

"A friend told me there had been an advert in the paper looking for people who struggled to find swimwear, so I was quite interested," she said. "I was sent a questionnaire and invited to join a panel. As far as I was concerned, it was just market research and I was measured all over my body, in places I have never been measured before. Towards the end, the PR agency called to say I was one of the last three selected to be part of the campaign."

Brundell and her fellow models had a taste of the high life when they were whisked to a photo shoot with celebrity photographer, Mary McCartney, daughter of Sir Paul McCartney.

"It was just out of this world. They treated us like A-list celebrities all day," she said. "To have a glass of champagne in your hand at 8.30am was great! Mary is a great photographer and she was lovely with us."

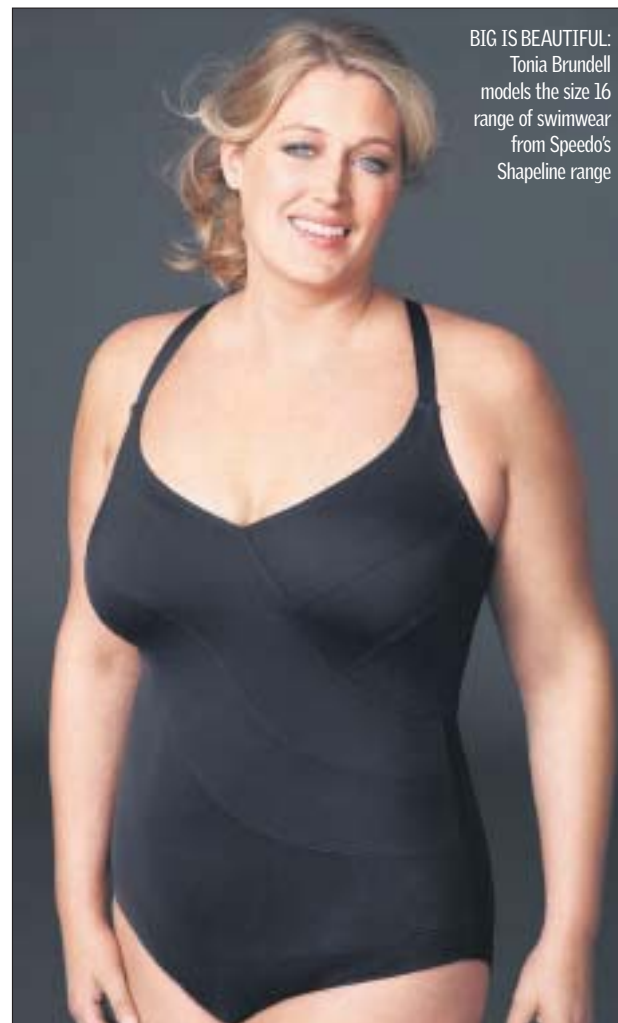
Most importantly, Brundell was

keen to promote swimwear which was designed with normal women's figures in mind.

"It's something I struggled with for years – body shape, body image and swimwear," she said. "It's so personal and the closest you get to being naked. Speedo has worked on it for five years and it meant they were interested in what real women thought. It was great to be part of it and to tell normal women about this fantastic product."

Although there has been a long-running public debate about the negative impact of size zero models and celebrities, progress in the media is slow and Brundell thinks Speedo's campaign will be a welcome one for many women.

"There have been a few stories about size 16 models on the catwalks. Normal women do not want to look at size six models, it just makes us feel worse about ourselves. It's brilliant Speedo wanted normal women with all our lumps and bumps. To know that people want to see my body in swimwear was just so flattering and has done wonders for my self confidence."



BIG IS BEAUTIFUL:
Tonia Brundell
models the size 16
range of swimwear
from Speedo's
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Anger at gay MP outed in expenses row

■ BY MARIJKE COX

A GAY rights group has condemned former cabinet minister David Laws' secrecy over his sexuality, claiming it has set the movement back.

Campaigners from Pride in Canterbury also pointed out the discrepancy between the shamed Chief Secretary of the Treasury's fear of coming out and the Lib Dem policy on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights.

In its manifesto, the party pledged to increase LGBT representation in Parliament, where before the election only two per cent of MPs were openly gay.

Andrew Brettell, from Pride in Canterbury, said Mr Laws' actions showed the gay community still had a long way to go to achieve true equality.

"It should be easy to be openly gay in Government, given that before the election the three main parties seemed keen to show how committed they were to LGBT and other diversity issues," he said.

In a statement, Mr Laws, MP for Yeovil in Somerset since 2001, apologised for his actions, after it was revealed he had used taxpayers' money to pay more than £40,000 in rent to his long-term partner James Lundie.

In 2006, rules were changed at Westminster to stop payments to partners, but Mr Laws – who unsuccessfully contested the Folkestone

and Hythe seat against Michael Howard in 1997 – continued to do so by failing to disclose his relationship with Mr Lundie.

He said his motivation was not to maximise profit, but to keep his sexuality a secret.

Martin Lammass, from Pride in Canterbury, said: "He knew he was in a relationship, he knew it was illegal to claim those expenses and he thought he could get away with it – the same old story."

"What he did was wrong and a serious misdemeanour and he should pay the consequences."

"His constituency should have the opportunity to call him back and make him stand again."

"What chance have they got of him standing up for their rights when he can't stand up for his own?"

Hostile

Lib Dem members have also criticised Mr Laws' actions and supported his decision to step down from his position at Westminster.

Peter Carroll, Kent's most high-profile Lib Dem after his successful Gurkha resettlement rights campaign, said: "If somebody claiming benefits had done a similar thing they would be treated in a hostile way."

"However much I feel for David Laws, you can't have a Government minister who does something where it suggests there is one rule for them and one rule for another."

"He had to stand down. If you put yourself in public office you have to face the consequence of your actions."



SECRECY: MP David Laws claimed expenses while paying his long-term partner James Lundie £40,000 in rent

"Politics is in a dreadful state – politicians must be whiter than white."

Despite the revelations, colleagues including Prime Minister David Cameron and his deputy Nick Clegg paid tribute to Mr Laws.

Mr Carroll, who suffered his third successive election defeat when he took on Tory Helen Grant for the Maidstone and The Weald seat on May 6, said he understood why.

"I think there is a sense of compassion in most people and they can see he has gone through a real personal trauma," he said.

"It's a matter of honour and he did the right thing by stepping down."

But while some are forgiving of Mr Laws' actions, the gay community are calling on him to make amends by making LGBT issues his primary task in Parliament should he continue as a politician.

Mr Lammass said: "Until we stop the situation where people like David Laws stay in the closet for no good reason, people in the rest of the UK are going to continue to do so."

Under pressure teachers are too sick for school

STRESSED teachers are taking thousands of days off work each year as the target culture in schools takes its toll.

Figures obtained through a Freedom of Information request revealed that in 2008, primary and secondary teachers working for Kent County Council took a total of 61,941 days off sick.

The previous year showed a similar figure of more than 60,000 days.

Figures for last year were not available at the time of the request, but numbers were expected to be around the same.

Statistics showed that of the 13,500 teachers working in KCC-run schools were absent for an average of almost one working week each, per year.

This is in addition to the three months annual paid leave teachers receive.

Medway council was unable to provide KOS Media with the number of days lost in its area, but revealed in 2008-09, 1,692 teachers were off sick, 65 off without authorisation.

In 2009-10, 1,328 teachers took sick days.

Supply teachers cost up to £200 a day, meaning millions of pounds of public money is spent each year on cover.

Cllr Gary Cooke, deputy cabinet member for children, defended the absentee figures by stating that Kent schools outperform private sector companies.

He said: "Teachers have a phenomenally difficult job to do but on average the latest figures show less than five days sick per annum per teacher. This is lower than the current average of more than six sick days a year taken by workers at private companies."

Pressured

A spokesman from Teacher Support Network, a group of independent charities offering help to teachers, said the circumstances under which they work are incredibly pressured.

"Through our contact we know the stress and other common mental health problems such as anxiety and depression are widespread in the profession and they have a negative impact on teacher health," he said.

"Pressures including increased workload, bullying and financial concerns all contribute to undermining their health and well-being."

"Their work is subjected to more scrutiny than almost any other profession, through inspections and league tables."

"The work they do is constantly assessed and unfairly criticised and teachers are increasingly held accountable for issues that would traditionally be considered the responsibility of the parents."

Nationally, 313,000 teachers were off sick in 2008 – more than half of the workforce.

In 2009, this figure dropped to 309,000, but the total number of working days lost was 2,695,000.

Across the UK, the average number of days off sick for all teachers was just under five – the same as Kent – but for those who actually took time off, the average was eight days.

Compact surgery at the cutting edge

WE HAVE had a jack-in-the-box, and even a boyfriend-in-a-box, but a leading Kent medic has designed a hospital in a box so well he has won a major national award.

Surgical technician Alexander Bushell is also an acclaimed inventor, and his incredibly innovative design for a super-compact treatment centre has taken the world by storm.

He has now just received the Innovation Award at the inaugural Performance Awards in London.

Working with his team of NHS technicians, he is responsible for the concept and design that allows medical teams to carry out life-saving operations almost anywhere in the world.

The awards are designed to put the spotlight firmly on exceptional individual achievement, like Kirsty Moore, the only female to fly with the Red Arrows.

Mr Bushell, 49, who runs Global Medical Systems, at the Kent Science Park in Sittingbourne, said: "This is an operating theatre that can be in action for around £20,000."

"Our first ones have already gone to Nigeria and we are hopeful there will be many more takers around the world."

"It would be of particular use in places where people have suffered bullet and shrapnel wounds or burns, so the military application is important."

"You get everything that would normally be found in theatre, like an anaesthetic machine, multi-parameter monitoring, lights, and kit packs of consumables."

"It is all designed for special locations. So



the packs for military would be different for those that deal with things like cataracts.

"And it all comes with its own solar-operated system. You can also use wind turbines, or even pedal power."

The awards were created by Scottish international performance consultant, Gerry Rose, who put together a renowned independent panel to identify breakthrough achievements



OUTSIDE THE BOX: Alexander Bushell has picked up an innovation award for his super-compact treatment centre

and encourage future talent across a variety of categories.

He said: "It is perhaps paradoxical that the inspiration for today's event stemmed from the global economic challenges that came to the fore in late 2008."

"At that time, a few of us got together to develop the idea of counteracting some of the ongoing doom and gloom by finding and telling the stories behind some of the great feats of performance that are constantly happening across the UK."

"I am a great believer in the power and influence of story-telling and see the sharing of our nominee stories as a great way of inspiring people to fully engage or even re-engage with their personal ambitions during these trying economic times."

PC is charged with wasting police time

A POLICE officer has been charged with wasting police time.

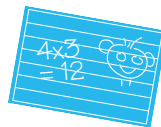
The charges against Frances Croucher, 27, of Maidstone, relate to an investigation into a report of an assault in Swanley in January.

PC Croucher claimed she was attacked during the routine search of a van which had a missing rear number plate.

She was taken to hospital and later discharged.

Croucher was released on bail last week to appear before magistrates in Sevenoaks on June 28.

She is currently suspended from duty.



BREAK TIME

Scheme shines light on homelessness

HOMELESS charity, Porchlight, has launched a youth education programme to try to prevent school children ending up on the streets in the future.

The initiative, being rolled out in school's across Swale, will deliver a set of hard-hitting presentations and interactive lessons to pupils.

It will also signpost students to support agencies, develop young people's financial awareness and work to change negative attitudes towards the homeless.

The programme is being delivered by three youth homelessness education workers. Funding has been provided by the Government's future jobs fund and local authorities.

Project co-ordinator, Neil Biggs, said, "This is an exciting project and we believe young people can make a difference to future generation's attitudes towards homelessness and the development of strategies to prevent it."

To find out more phone 01227 764887 or email neilbiggs@porchlight.org.uk.

Judo stars bring home medal haul

MEMBERS of a young judo school in Milton Regis brought a handful of medals home from the sport's Multi Nation Event.

Ashley Costa and Danny Carrott both came away with gold medals. The Young Judo Club trains in a variety of martial arts. To find out more telephone Martin Clarke on 07074 200150 or email ibfbsa@googlemail.com.

School's outstanding results from latest Ofsted inspection

■ BY JILL HURST

A GRAMMAR school in Faversham has been given the thumbs up by Government inspectors who scored it as outstanding in more areas than ever before.

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School received the results of its latest Ofsted inspection – carried out at the end of April. Of the 31 criteria it was scored against, 13 were awarded the outstanding grade.

Areas of outstanding practice included attainment, outcomes, safeguarding, behaviour, attendance, preparation for economic well-being, care, guidance and support, governance and the quality of leadership and management.

Head teacher, David Anderson said of the inspection: "This is particularly pleasing given the fact that the school was inspected under the new Ofsted framework, introduced last September, which is generally regarded as a much tougher regime than its predecessor. I would like to congratulate all members of the community for this excellent achievement; governors, staff and most of all the students. There has been a great deal of progress over the last two

years and it has been really pleasing to see how all members of the school have contributed to this. Results are improving, the teaching is getting better and the pupils are clearly very happy and enjoying their time at this successful and improving school.

"The most pleasing aspect of the report was the recognition of the improvements and progress made since the inspection in 2007. We at Queen Elizabeth's are committed to ensuring this progress is maintained and that we continue our drive to make this an even better school."

In his report the Government inspector said the behaviour of students at the school was exemplary. He added: "Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School now has more outstanding aspects to its work than when it was last inspected. In particular, students' already high academic performance has improved steadily, with more students achieving the highest GCSE and A-level grades because of the increasingly rapid progress they make. Students' other outcomes are also mostly outstanding, preparing them exceptionally well for their future education and careers. Their behaviour is exemplary and makes an important contribution to the excellent atmosphere for learning in lessons."

To find out more about Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School visit www.queenelizabeths.kent.sch.uk or telephone 01795 533132.



EXCELLENT RESULT: Head teacher Mr David Anderson with Queen Elizabeth pupils

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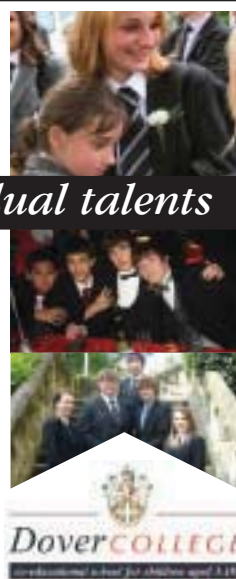
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A2 Neanderthal finds could now change history

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

A NEW discovery suggests Neanderthal man made his home in Kent much earlier than previously thought.

It was always known that Neanderthals had lived in Britain then retreated to mainland Europe during the ice age 200,000 years ago, but a fresh find of flints shows they came back much earlier than previously thought.

Neanderthal man lived in Europe for 260,000 years. Scientists had believed the ancestors of modern man arrived in Britain about 65,000 years ago.

But this find means they may have to revise their time frame.

The flints are waste flakes from the manufacture of unknown tools probably used to cut up animals for food.

A University of Southampton archaeologist and Oxford Archaeology spotted evidence that Neanderthals were living in Britain at the start of the last ice age.

Commissioned by Oxford Archaeology, the university's Dr Francis Wenban-Smith discovered two ancient flint handtools at the junction of the M25 and the A2.

They were found during a Highways Agency excavation, and mean Dartford could have been founded by the Neanderthals.

Tests on sediment burying the flints show they date from around 110,000 years ago, proving Neanderthals were living in Britain at this time.

Until now, it was believed Kent and all of the UK was an empty wilderness after the Ice Age forced everyone south 200,000 years ago, with Neanderthals not returning until 65,000 years ago.

Dr Wenban-Smith said: "I couldn't believe my eyes when I received the test results.

"We know Neanderthals inhabited northern France at this time, but this new evi-



HARD EVIDENCE: The flints suggest human occupation

dence suggests that as soon as sea levels dropped, and a 'land bridge' appeared across the Channel, they made the journey by foot to Kent."

Oxford Archaeology project manager David Score said: "The fieldwork uncovered a significant amount of activity at the Dartford site in the Bronze Age and Roman periods.

"It is deeper trenches which have yielded the most interesting results – shedding light on a long period when there was assumed to have been an absence of early man from Britain."

One theory is that Neanderthals may have been attracted back to Kent by the flint-rich chalk downs visible from France. These supported mammoth, rhino, horse and deer – an important food source in sub-Arctic conditions.

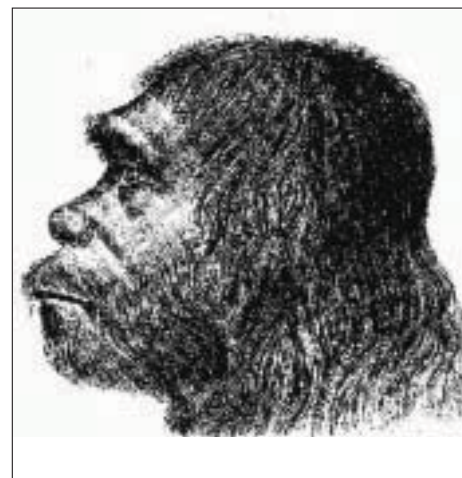
Dr Wenban-Smith added: "These are people who had no real shelter – no houses, not even caves, so we can only speculate that by the time they returned, they had developed physiologically to cope with the cold, as well as behavioural strategies such as planning winter stores and making good use of fire."

Dr Wenban-Smith said more evidence is needed to date their occupations accurately.

Other results from the project include the discovery of a woolly rhino tooth in the flood-plain gravels of the River Darent, dated at around 40,000 years old.



FACE TO FACE: Archaeologist Dr Francis Wenban-Smith has found evidence of our Kentish ancestor Neanderthal Man



Kent and Essex forces join

A GROUNDBREAKING new plan will see Kent and Essex police officers working together in one crime-fighting unit.

The Serious Crime Directorate will tackle big-league offenders including armed robbery gangs and drug smugglers from its base in Ebbsfleet.

A total of 1,100 officers and support staff make up the new elite force which will have its own intelligence network, surveillance teams and forensics experts.

In charge is Kent Assistant Chief Constable Alan Pughley, who is convinced he will forge a formidable unit.

"This is a groundbreaking initiative when it comes to UK policing."

The purpose of the new organisation is to tackle the most serious criminal offenders.

Mr Pughley said: "The advantage we will have is that we will be able to commit more resources to investigations."

Essex was chosen to partner Kent in the

new initiative because of the problems faced by both forces.

"One problem is criminals who are coming out of London and committing offences elsewhere, so we have ensured that the Metropolitan Police Force will be working with us."

Officers from the new unit are already operating but not at the joint level. It is expected to be fully operational in April 2012 but police say many parts will be in action before that date.

Police say the new unit will not cost anything to put into action as the resources are already there.

But this plan will see the first formal large-scale tie up between the county forces.

"This is a way forward for policing in this country," said Mr Pughley.



READY: PC Pughley

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YOUR LETTERS

Would you have ever voted Lib-Con?

Having watched this coalition government and listened to them I have to say "Thanks to Cameron, but no thanks".

Nick Clegg must wonder just how he has done it, to run the country with so few seats

Cameron has given in on far too many issues and it would seem he has done that just to get into number 10

Well he has done it and, I suppose, good luck to him, but it would seem that apart from trying to get us out of debt that Labour accrued, most of the other problems will remain.

To me it seems that we have a Lib-Dem government and that is surely not what I voted for or ever would

RE Tucker
Sheerness

Religion is not a power for good

Picking up on Clive Wilkins-Oplars letter in last week's newspaper it seems to me that if God made man, rather than the other way round, there would be only one religion.

I know he is alleged to move in a mysterious way but I can see no reason why, if he exists, he would influence some to be Christian and believe Jesus was his son, some to be Moslem and believe Jesus was merely a prophet and Jews to be believe neither and still await the promised Messiah. And this is to say nothing about what Hindu's believe or to touch on the South Sea Islanders who worship a Fridge Freezer or, indeed, those who revere Prince Phillip.

Clearly nonsense but there remains the question of whether religion is a power for good. Let me put it this way. Were it not for religious Jews maintaining that God promised them the land there would be no illegal settlements by Israelis in Palestinian lands. Were it not for Islamism there would be no Hamas, no Taliban, no atrocities such as what was inflicted on Mumbai and so on.

Religion, a power for good? Huh! I beg to differ.

Ian Macmillan
by email

Let first-timers on the property ladder

It's a good idea for cash to be made available to local authorities to bring houses back onto the market but will they be made available for those who really need them?

At the moment the housing market is on the up which is good news for those who possess properties.

But it is not so good for people

your blogger

Cuts in public spending will be welcomed by ratepayers sick of council overstaffing and big salaries



BARRING the unfortunate departure of David Laws, the Cameron-Clegg coalition seem to be getting stuck in with the cuts and making a decent fist of it.

Come on, if he'd wanted to keep his private life private then he shouldn't have claimed the £40,000, it wasn't as though he needed it.

The big cuts are coming and the only reason Chancellor George and his assistant Vince are acting so swiftly is that it helps convince the money men around the world that Britain is not like the Costa countries and we deserve to retain our top notch credit rating.

The message is simple: "We are not Greece... or Spain... or Portugal." That's it.

The good news is that with the pound getting stronger against the euro then your European holiday is going to be cheaper. And you'll be able to ensure brilliant return service in any Greek restaurant or bar if you leave just a little tip. Hurrah.

The same increase is not true of the dollar-sterling exchange rate, but it's probably worth giving the United States a miss this year anyway as the beaches are a bit mucky.

But holidays are probably not at the forefront of your mind if you work in the public sector though.

Yes, that's all you council employees and Whitehall penpushers. (NHS staff are excluded because you make far too much noise, and there's a lot of you. The

government will wait a while to squeeze you next year).

You council employees are set for a hefty round of redundancies and don't expect much sympathy from us. Unfortunately, you ignored for years that you are directly accountable to the voter.

It's simple: we elect the councillors, the councillors employ officers and staff to do our bidding which includes mending the roads, running schools and taking away our rubbish etc.

We haven't forgotten how you've wasted our money on foreign jollies, ill-considered investments in Icelandic Banks and allowing some of the most aesthetically offensive architecture to be thrown up in our districts and boroughs.

And when it comes to spending our cash, we've even had a sneaking suspicion that some of you naughty council officers have misled elected councillors.

Yes I know a lot of councillors are genuinely sincere in their wish to provide a better life for people but most know nothing about finance... or **REALISTIC WAGES** for senior officers.

And so it's payback time.

You council folk are first in the firing line and a lot of council tax-payers are going to enjoy it.

Then it'll be the turn of the stupidly overpaid who'll have their salaries made public and, more importantly, give us all a good laugh as they seek to justify them.

It's a financial crisis, but there's going to be some entertainment along the way.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Gareth Arnold**, on 01303 817025 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Swale blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourswale.co.uk.

who want to try and get on the housing ladder.

So when these homes are made available they should be at a price which is accessible for first time buyers.

Mark Baldwin
by email

Why couldn't we be good off the bat?

Finally Kent County Cricket Club seem to be turning things around with some good results.

The win at Durham was excellent and although we would always be favourites to beat Scotland the T20 victory over a strong Essex side on their own ground was very satisfying.

A week or more ago I was worried we could become the first team not to win a single game in any format.

But now things are looking up. Why couldn't we have started the season in this sort of form?

Brian Hicks, by email

Don't miss historic chance to listen

The stories carried in the media about Dunkirk were very interesting and worthwhile.

Some people may say too much attention is still being paid to the Second World War, but as the last of

the people who experienced the battlefields at first hand die off, it is only in the next few years we shall have the chance to listen to their accounts of how history was made.

When the last survivors are no more events really do become history – just recounted in books and by increasingly inaccurate war films and television programmes.

So the tales of veterans should be listened to while there is still time.

George Walliams
by email

Police have no idea dealing with public

Anne Barnes, chairwoman of the Kent Police Authority, is quite wrong when she claims that the government's proposals for elected police commissioners are driven "purely by dogma". On the contrary, this policy is evidence-driven – and part of the copious evidence is my own experience of this feeble organisation.

The KPA is hopeless at effective public consultation. Just like Kent County Council, Thanet District Council and Kent Police themselves (the so-called "community safety partners") they seem to think that a lot of glossy leaflets and press photo-opportunities and time-wasting meetings constitute effective public engagement.

It is hopeless at holding the police to account at virtually every level – policing of the Kingsnorth

demonstrations, for example, or the police's poor record in keeping to Freedom of Information legislation, or the rudeness of senior officers to members of the public, or the persistent misrepresentation by the police of crime statistics, or the previous chief constable's expensive travel to work arrangements.

Moreover, we should not get too excited by their cumbersome process of selecting a new chief constable and Mrs Barnes' expressions of confidence in the man they eventually chose, Mr Ian Learmonth.

A quick check of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary's assessments of his current force, Norfolk, shows that it performs exactly as Kent Police have performed in every category that is assessed.

So he is no better and no worse than the last chap. I wish Mr Learmonth well in his new post – but it would make his task easier if he were subject to effective, constructive challenge from a high powered elected commissioner rather than a bunch of well meaning retired brigadiers, county councillors and magistrates.

Paul Twyman, by email

EU zone must unite over climate change

The European Parliament is a place for the countries of our

continent to work together on issues that affect us all, and no issue is a bigger threat to our common long-term security than climate change. This issue has no respect for borders and it can only be tackled if the world works together.

I was therefore delighted this week to vote with my colleagues to support plans to see new public buildings across Europe become "nearly zero energy efficient" by 2021, and greatly improve the efficiency of Europe's existing 190m building stock.

It is estimated that buildings are responsible for 40 per cent of energy consumption and for 35 per cent of the total greenhouse gas emissions in Europe.

Promoting energy efficient buildings is the best way to cut this and to provide financial savings in the long-term.

Energy efficient buildings not only protect the environment but also offer a 30 per cent energy saving over some conventional buildings.

These new energy saving standards will cut energy bills for families and businesses in South East England and will help tackle fuel poverty at source.

Only 1 per cent of the UK's housing stock is currently considered to be energy efficient. We have a great opportunity ahead of us to make our communities greener and more prosperous, but we must act now.

I promised when I was elected to work to help protect the environment and this is just one example of how I am achieving this for people in Kent and across Europe.

Catherine Bearder
Lib Dem Euro MP for Kent

Foster the idea of a new career with kids

Nearly 20 years ago I made the decision to become a foster carer, leaving behind a career in teaching and youth work. It is the best decision I could have made.

There is now a shortage of 850 foster carers in the South East at a time when more children need foster homes.

This means children too often face moving a long way from their family and friends and many cannot live with their brothers or sisters.

More local foster carers are needed for local children and during this year's Foster Care Fortnight (May 17-30) we are calling for more people with the right skills and qualities to come forward.

I feel proud to have been able to make a difference to the lives of so many children and I would urge your readers to consider doing the same.

To find out more people should speak to their local fostering service, call Fosterline on 0800 040 7675 or visit www.couldyoufoster.org.uk.

Jim Bond
Foster carer and chair of the Fostering Network

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

BUDGET cuts at the Department for Transport could hamper the chances of the £16 billion Crossrail project being extended into Kent.

Last week transport minister Theresa Villiers warned she was looking for “value for money” in the scheme, prompting fears that several proposed stations may be scrapped.

Current plans for the new 74-mile network see it running from Maidenhead in Berkshire to Abbey Wood in London, and Shenfield in Essex, with stops throughout the capital including at Heathrow.

Kent County Council and former Labour MP for Dartford Howard Stoate were hopeful the project could also be extended into the north of the county, but this now appears less likely given that stations included in the original plan – including Maidenhead and Abbey Wood – are now under threat amid reports of the Government seeking a £5bn saving.

Despite the proposed cuts, Dr Stoate’s Tory successor Gareth Johnson said he was not giving up on the dream just yet.

He said: “I would deeply love to see Crossrail

Hopes of Crossrail link under threat from £5bn in cuts



CUT OFF: KCC’s hopes to link Ebbsfleet with Crossrail may be shelved

extended right to Ebbsfleet, but it’s going to come down to costings quite frankly because we’ve got to sort out the financial deficit.

“There are lots of negotiations going on at the moment and the finer details of the operation are still being worked on.

Gridlock

“I’d be surprised if there was an announcement soon that Crossrail will be extended into north Kent, but we hope it’s still

a medium-term goal and it’s something we will continue to pursue.”

Crossrail is the UK’s biggest transport project since the Channel Tunnel, with the first trains due to run on the line by 2017.

The scheme is included in KCC’s “growth without gridlock” transport strategy, which states the authority is “keen to see the route extended to Gravesend with good interchange at Ebbsfleet International”.

However, Cllr Nick Chard – cabinet member

for environment, highways and waste – declined to comment on speculation about the project.

Former transport secretary Geoff Hoon raised the possibility of Crossrail reaching Kent when he accepted an invitation from Dr Stoate to visit Dartford in March last year.

He said at the time: “Howard has pressed me hard on the question of Crossrail and the extension to Ebbsfleet. We have preserved the route and made it a possibility, and I’m certainly not ruling it out.”

Family to sue negligent hospital over young mother’s death

A WIDOWER whose wife died when a hospital’s treatment of her fell woefully below what would be expected is taking legal action.

Donna Maben, 33, died from septicæmia at the William Harvey Hospital, near her home in Ashford.

An inquest was highly critical of her treatment and care, and now husband Ian has instructed lawyers to fight for compensation.

Solicitor Sarah Harman said she

cannot talk about the case, but confirmed the litigation.

She said: “The family are taking legal action. The Trust has admitted liability and we are negotiating.”

Asked when the case would be going into court, she said: “When you are negotiating you are not quite sure.”

Donna died on May 11, 2009.

The mum had been admitted to hospital on April 21 suffering from abdominal pains and yet was

discharged just three days later.

She collapsed in agony two weeks later and was finally given surgery on a twisted bowel that had gone gangrenous. But by then it was too late for her.

The coroner was horrified at the circumstances of the death.

Rachel Redman said delays in operating and confusion over her treatment led to her death and she wrote to Stuart Bain, the chief

executive of East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, with her concerns.

Her distraught husband Ian said: “They [the hospital] just weren’t giving her the treatment you’d expect. Simple things – a lack of fluids – even me, not being medically trained, know that if you’re taking in two litres of fluid and three litres of fluid are going out that’s not a good thing.”

When the damning verdict was announced Steven Pompeus, of East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust, said: “The trust would like to take this opportunity to apologise unreservedly for Donna’s death.

“The Trust fully accepts the verdict of the coroner and would like to reassure the public that changes have already been implemented to ensure the same tragic outcome does not happen again.”

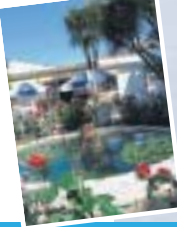
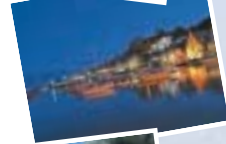
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seeking men

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ANNE 70, widow, seeks gent for friendship and companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334989

CLASSY attractive lady, 60's, seeks male of similar age for walks, talks, meals out, cinema, theatre and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334913 

LADY young looking, mid 50's, attractive, likes gardening, walks, days out, socialising, seeks kind, caring male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334721

PETITE female, slim, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, GSOH, romantic, likes sports, nights out, meals, seeks honest, genuine, N/S male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334613 

ATTRACTIVE petite, 50yr old brunette, seeks male company and friendship, possibly romance, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334547 

MARIA 48, likes country walks, trips, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337926

DAWN 44, small outgoing blue eyed brunette, needing some male attention seeks male, who's not too tall for a casual, uncomplicated relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334825 

PAULA 39, brown hair, hazel eyes, vivacious, great personality, knows what she wants seeks adventurous man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334823 

JENNY 31, gorgeous, outgoing party girl, blonde, blue eyed, great curves WLTm hunky male for some serious fun. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334821 

JUDY 56, lovely, creative artistic and just that bit different, loves sunshine, outdoors, looking for new possibilities with quirky, dark haired male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334819 

JACKIE 40's, stunning, slim, loves life and likes to look after herself, wants to live it to the full with the right male. It could be you. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334803 

BARBARA 48, slender fun loving divorcee, blonde hair, green eyes seeks slim athletic male to be her new love. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334801 

SUE 46, lovely green eyed blonde, knows there must be more to life than work seeks tall intelligent guy to show her how to relax and have fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334799 

KAY 37, beautiful, warm, friendly blonde, no ties, would love to get together with an attractive male who can sweep her off her feet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334797 

RITA 50, likes walks, cinema, travel, music, seeks solvent, N/S male, 47-54 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334467

PETITE charming, bubbly brunette, likes most things, seeks genuine male, 50-58. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332993 


ATTRACTIVE slim single mum, 44, seeks similar tall male, 40-50, caring, loving and loyal, are you? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334393 


RACHEL 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, sexy, voluptuous, likes male, seaside, seeks older, kind, loving, generous male, 75 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334323

CLARE petite, size 8-10, likes music, historic places, holidays, animals, meals out, walks, seaside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334101 

KATHLEEN 42, likes keep fit, cycling, cooking, cinema, single mum, seeks genuine male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334085 


LADY 64, 5ft 6ins, slim, likes meals out, travel, seaside, music, films, seeks outgoing male, 63-67 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334053 

KAREN 5ft 11ins, brown hair, green eyes, likes holidays, meals out, drinks, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334025 

SUSIE 55, medium build, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 5ins, own home, likes historical places, driving, travel, walks, tv, seeks N/S male with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333997 

CHERYL 51, attractive, brown hair, likes socialising, seeks attractive, employed male with GSOH to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333691


ANDREA 34, lovely, sensual with long dark hair seeks mature male to take a chance and share a romantic meal for two. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333607 

FUN flirty rock chic, curvy size 12 seeks likeminded male to share special times and bring sunshine into her life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333605 


JILL stunning blue eyed blonde, sporty, devoted footie fan, seeks tall, active guy who's not too shy to try something a bit different. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333603 


ANNA 43, sensual blue eyed blonde, slim and vivacious, loves to wine and dine seeks tall, dark male for good conversation, fun and romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333601 

SUE honest, caring, understanding, young 53, seeks tall, honest male, 48-55. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333663 


DIANA 46, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, slim, no ties, OHAC, GSOH, likes nights out, travel, seeks similar male, 44-50. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333555 

FUN loving, attractive, black female, slim, 38, 5ft 7ins, likes walks, reading, theatre, music, seeks genuine, caring, European gent to share laughter and life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333815 

SANDRA 60, bubbly widow WLTm loving male who knows how to treat a lady for good conversation and relaxed fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333631 

GEORGIE 45, cuddly bubbly blonde, seeks laid back guy to chill out, share adult conversation and relaxing no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333629 

BEAUTIFUL vivacious female seeks kind hearted, affectionate guy to come home and share relaxing evenings together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333627 

JUDY youthful slim nurse 45, no ties, can't wait to raise the temperature of a discreet, experienced, confident guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333625 

38YR old female, African, seeks caring, honest English male, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333159 

FEMALE likes walks, gym, dancing, seeks tall male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 331469 

ATTRACTIVE lady, late 50's, lively, outgoing, bubbly, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330793 

MARIA 45, smoker, slim, likes most things in life, GSOH, seeks tall male, 45-50, for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 327447


CLAIRE 31, stunning, tall and curvy, long/dark, curly hair, likes to keep fit, seeks genuine male to share fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330423 


ELLIE very affectionate, slim but curvy, auburn hair, hazel eyes, no ties, lives free to the full, seeks mature male for friendship/more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329189 

CHRISSEY 5ft 2ins, 55, divorced, likes animals, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 328929 

MARGARET adventurous, well preserved professional, loving, kind, with many interests, seeks a younger male for fun times. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329183 

SHY easygoing 32yr old female, seeks caring guy, 32-40 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329469


RACHEL 36, sensual bubbly nurse, very fit and eager to please, seeks uncomplicated reliable male for some off duty fun. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330431 

LESLEY 49, attractive cuddly blonde, baby blue eyes, likes music, days out, seeks caring older male to brighten up her days and live up to her nights! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330429 

LINDA 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male for discreet naughty but fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330427 

LISA 42, medium build, African, likes cooking, walks, music, days in/out, WLTm caring, down to earth male, 40-50. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 328017 

BLACK female, N/S, 44, 5ft 5ins, likes cinema, cooking, seeks N/S white, kind, honest, loving male, 48-56 with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332979 


52YR old female, honest, reliable, trustworthy, likes socialising, meals out, cinema, travel, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332983 

HEATHER 36, tall blue eyed brunette, shy, but always up for a laugh, looking to let her hair down with a tall, romantic male. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332633 

HAYLEY 22, bubbly blue eyed blonde, tattoos and piercings, loves to live life to the full, seeking exciting male, up for anything, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332631 


GENUINELY attractive, young looking, late 50's lady, 5ft 8ins, reddish hair, likes France, theatre, music, outdoors, seeks tall, dark haired gent for lasting relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 324255

ELIZABETH 58, likes countryside, meals out, horse riding, seeks male with similar interests for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329785

PROFESSIONAL female, fun loving, late 40's, likes outdoor life, meals out, nights in, seeks professional male, under 60 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329011 

HONEST caring, understanding lady, 5ft 5ins, likes good food, nights in, cinema, cooking, seeks black/white male, 55-65 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 327765

PRETTY petite brunette, lovely green eyes, looking for tall, dark, dishy man to sweep her off her feet for some hands on fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378436


SAM 35, single mum to 3 teenage boys, smoker, looking for someone for laughs, meals out, cinema and generally having a good time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 327577 

BEV 41, gorgeous, bored, green eyed blonde, looking for fun nights in or out with discreet man who can turn a spark into a fire. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330435 

LADY gaga 27, seeks tall, handsome Lord go go, 30-35 to be wined, dined and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 327455

JANINE 43, stunning slim, blue eyed blonde WLTm tall male to get to know, share romantic candlelight dinners, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332627 

SEDUCTIVE saucy blue eyed blonde seeks happy go lucky male for lots of fun and attention. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332625 

AMANDA voluptuous loving brunette, no ties, seeking sensual, discreet, tactile male who would love her just as she is. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329181 

LADY 50's, N/S, likes theatre, walks, gardening, swimming, meals out, seeks genuine, N/S male of similar age and interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 327401

ATTRACTIVE brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 3ins, petite, mid 50's, seeks gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 331731 

HEATHER 48, attractive, well travelled, no ties, seeks honest older male for romance and TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330425 

NEED some company? Norma still has what it takes to have a good time seeks broadminded male. Discretion appreciated. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329185 

PERFECT 10! Young 42, blonde, attractive and free again, looking for someone younger to make her feel alive. No Strings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378440

GIRLS just wanna have fun! Voluptuous blue eyed blonde busy, enjoys cosy nights in and wild nights out seeks male who is ready for her! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378446 


SMALL beautiful green eyed nurse, red hair, very naughty, seeks male to care for. I would love to take your temperature! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378438


GERALDINE seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 321449

PETITE size 8 female, lots of love to give, seeks male, 25-45 for friendship possibly romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 314811 

LOVELY young at heart, blue eyed blonde, loves to dance seeks tall male who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376638

FEMININE blonde lady, 61, 5ft 7ins, seeks attractive, caring, intelligent male, 40-65 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 320357 

SUE young 43, long dark hair, very adventurous seeks mature male with plenty of experience to chill out and share uncomplicated friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378306 

ATTRACTIVE slim, young lady, seeks genuine black male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348468 


SLIM Asian female, 47, honest, attractive, likes music, meals out, tv, seeks attractive, sensible male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 324787


DOWN to earth lady, 5ft 3ins, black hair, likes most things, Italian parents, seeks mature, relaxed male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 326655

BARBARA 56, happy, slim, blonde, likes running, cycling, cinema, theatre, shopping, seeks tall, fit, loving guy to hold my shopping bags. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 317173


MEN
seeking women

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : **CHAT883 To : 65125 (T&C's below)**

PETER 23, tall, slim, ginger hair, 5ft 6ins, outgoing, loving, caring, seeks outgoing, loving, caring female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335029 


NICE looking male, 55, seeks mature female for fun, outings and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334975 

SIMON seeks slim female for friendship, fun and LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334923 


RAY 39, shy, seeks female, 20-39 for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379836 


70YR old gent, loves home/garden, countryside, seeks female for TLC and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334755

55YR old male, 5ft 9ins, divorced, seeks N/S female, 45-60. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334713


WIDOWER retired, OHAC, seeks local lady, any age for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334709 


KEVIN 49, well built, 6ft, seeks female for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334689 

PETER 56, likes music, cinema, outdoors, seeks sensual female for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334631 

RICHARD 45, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, easygoing, likes holidays, travel, cooking, music, cinema, meals out, seeks female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334623 

PROFESSIONAL Asian male, 45, likes dining/dinner, seeks female, 30-40 for casual relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334593

JOHN 42, 5ft 10ins, muscular, likes motor bikes, cars, pubs, meals out, seeks female, 25-48 for nights in/out, friendship and romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334555 

5FT 10ins male, 58, widow, likes cooking, travel, dogs, seeks female, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379850 

TALL slim, dark haired, attractive male, young 54, seeks attractive, slim female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334557

MEDITERRANEAN male, 5ft 2ins, likes sports, music, seeks female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333925 

PHIL 63, retired, seeks female to put the spark back into life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box

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Invicta 2.8	£2,699	£149	£35

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LEISURE 18-20



LIVE & LOCAL

Samaritans go classical

SUPPORT the Samaritans at an evening of classical music in Herne Bay.

On Saturday, violinist Christopher Carr and soprano Corinna Wilson will perform at the Herne Bay Baptist Church in High Street.

The concert starts at 7pm and tickets cost £6.50. To book and for more information, call 01227 373870.

UK African arts show

KORA player Sekou Keita will visit Canterbury on Thursday to perform his only planned UK date this year.

Keita will be at Orange Street Music Club at 7.30pm in a concert organised by Music for Change, which promotes multicultural diversity through the arts.

Tickets cost £9.50. For more information call 01227 760801.

Dinner with Geoffrey

ENJOY dinner and theatre as The Farmhouse hosts The Canterbury Tales.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the venue in Dover Street, Canterbury, is offering a two-course meal and a performance of Chaucer's timeless stories.

Tickets cost £16 and booking is essential. Call 01227 456118 or visit www.the-farmhousecanterbury.co.uk.

Ben's a theatre member

YOUNG Dover actor Ben Steele joins the tour of The Penis Monologues.

Presented by the Unfinished Business Theatre Company, the show is at St Stephens Hall, Canterbury, at 8pm on Thursday and Blean Village Hall at 8pm on Friday.

To book call 07958 177812 or email tickets@unfinished-business.org.uk.

Quex Park gets crafty

LOCAL craftworkers and visiting tradesmen will take part in a craft fair at Quex Park in Birchington this weekend.

On Saturday and Sunday Quex Craft Village will display an array of unique crafts and gifts.

The event runs from 10am to 4pm and is free. To find out more, call 01843 595143 or visit www.quexpark.co.uk.

Garden art workshop

GET in touch with your creative side when Brogdale Farm in Faversham hosts an interactive art workshop.

Animate Art will lead the activity to create artworks inspired by gardens on Sunday from 1pm to 4pm.

To find out more about visiting Brogdale Farm, visit the website at www.brogdalecollections.co.uk.

Grand jazz performers

WEEKLY jazz at The Grand in Folkestone continues with a performance by the Roger Lewin Quartet.

The concert will be held in Keppels Music Room at 8.30pm on Thursday, with Roger Lewin on keyboard, Phill on saxes, Steve King on bass and John Willis on drums and vocals.

Admission costs £5. Call 01303 277175.

Eclectic mix for festival line-up

Motown legends, rising talent and an all-new comedy tent are just a few of the highlights to be enjoyed as Lounge on the Farm celebrates its fifth anniversary

LOUNGE ON THE FARM

Friday to Sunday, July 9-11
Merton Farm, Canterbury



FROM 60s superstars to the best of today's new talent, Lounge on the Farm returns next month for another musical extravaganza.

This year's diverse line-up boasts an eclectic range of acts to suit every taste, so the award-winning festival looks set to provide even more quality entertainment for music-lovers of all ages. Last year Lounge on the Farm picked up the Best Line-Up accolade at the UK Festival Awards and the new bill is as tempting as ever.

Highlights include Motown legends Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, who will be transporting the audience back to the heady days when the Detroit soul sound was taking the world by storm. The uplifting summer sound of ska and reggae will be heard when Toots and the Maytals bring their unmistakable Jamaican vibe to the Kent countryside, while jazz saxophonist Courtney Pine shows why he has become an icon of his field.

Irish singer-songwriter Fionn Regan draws on influences such as Bob Dylan and Neil Diamond, with the resulting sound earning a Mercury Prize nomination for his debut album. With more than 180 acts playing over seven stages during the three-day festival, music-lovers will be spoiled for choice.

Exciting

On Saturday, Moshi Moshi and Wichita Recordings host the Sheepdip and they have lined up a fantastic selection of acts, showing off the two record labels' most exciting talents.

The bill includes Slow Club, Silver Columns, Hot Club De Paris, The Wave Pictures, James Yuill, Gold Panda, First Aid Kit, Veronica Falls, Dam Mantle, Spectrals and Summer Camp.

To mark Lounge on the Farm's fifth birthday, there are even bigger names than ever this year, with acts such as Erland and the Carnival, Quantic and his Combo Bárbaro, These New Puritans, Hexstatic, Ashley Beedle and Nathan Detroit due to perform.

Along with some of the country's most exciting bands, Kent's music scene will be well represented. The long list of local acts appearing includes Matthew P, Yearner Babies, Electric River, Lucy Kitt, Tom Williams and the Boat, Liam Magill, Syd Arthur, Speakers Corner Quartet and many more.

Camden's Flowerpot has put together a great line-up for the Farm Folk tent and folk



LINE-UP: (Above) Motown legends Martha Reeves and the Vandellas and (right) Irish singer-songwriter Fionn Regan

fans can look forward to performances by Kitty, Daisy and Lewis, Johnny Flynn, Peggy Sue, Barker Band, Alan Pownall, The Agitator, Beans on Toast, Rum Shebeen, Lulu and the Lampshades, Handshake, The Joker and the Thief and Medicine Show.

Dubbed Out will be bringing out the bass in style, with appearances by DJ Yoda, Beardyman, Jakwob, Cyantific, The Others and Marc Sov.

After all the excitement of the day's performances, festival-goers can chill out with some late-night acoustic performances as Strummerville brings its Campfire Sessions to the Further Field.

More than just a music festival, Lounge on the Farm also picked up the Best Festival For Foodies award from a national newspaper two years ago. By only accepting food traders from Kent and Sussex and insisting on strict sourcing guidelines, the festival organisers aim to offer festival-goers tasty samples of the region's produce.



There will also be theatre, drama and performance to look forward to, along with a heavyweight line-up in the comedy tent.

Television favourite Phill Jupitus and his Improv Alls Stars will be headlining, as will the charismatic Howard Marks.

Weekend tickets cost £95 for adults, £75 for youths, £45 for children and £210 for families. Day tickets are £40 for adults, £30 for youths and £20 for children. To book, visit www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk or call 0844 888 9991.



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LOUNGE ON THE FARM

Music Festival 5

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HOWARD MARKS
 ANDRE VINCENT / MARTY MCLEAN
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 CARL DONNELLY / KEITH FARNAN
 & FRIDAY NIGHT UKC DR OLIVER DOUBLE'S 'STARS OF THE FUTURE'

WWW.LOUNGEONTHEFARM.CO.UK

Lounge On The Farm
9, 10, 11 July 2010
Merton Farm, Canterbury

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Weekend Ticket £95
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 Child Weekend £45
 Family Weekend £210

Buy tickets from www.ticketline.co.uk or call 0844 888 9991

All weekend tickets include camping.
 Campervans = £40

Day Tickets £40 Adult, £30 Youth, £20 Child
 Kids under 5 = £1, Children 6-12, Youth 13-17, Adult 18+

Gift Shop Now Open!

THE Secret Gardens OF SANDWICH

Neglected for 25 years, an extensive restoration programme has now returned the Gardens to their former glory. Some original features have been revived, whilst contemporary and traditional planting styles mix harmoniously to create a garden that has evolved with modernity and yet still captures the spirit of its heritage.

After a stroll in the Gardens visit the fully licensed Tea Room for a reviving cup of tea and a slice of home made cake, or linger longer for a spot of lunch and a glass of wine.

Our newly opened Salutation Gift Shop stock what we believe to be some of the finest products available today, combining the highest quality with great value. Our head buyer has scoured the market and has tracked down a range of truly magnificent gifts at a variety of different prices. Admission to the garden is not necessary.

■ Guided Tours ■ Plant Sales ■ Tea Room ■ Gift Shop

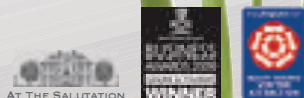
01304 619919

e: info@the-secretgardens.co.uk

Knight rider Street, Sandwich, Kent, CT13 9EW

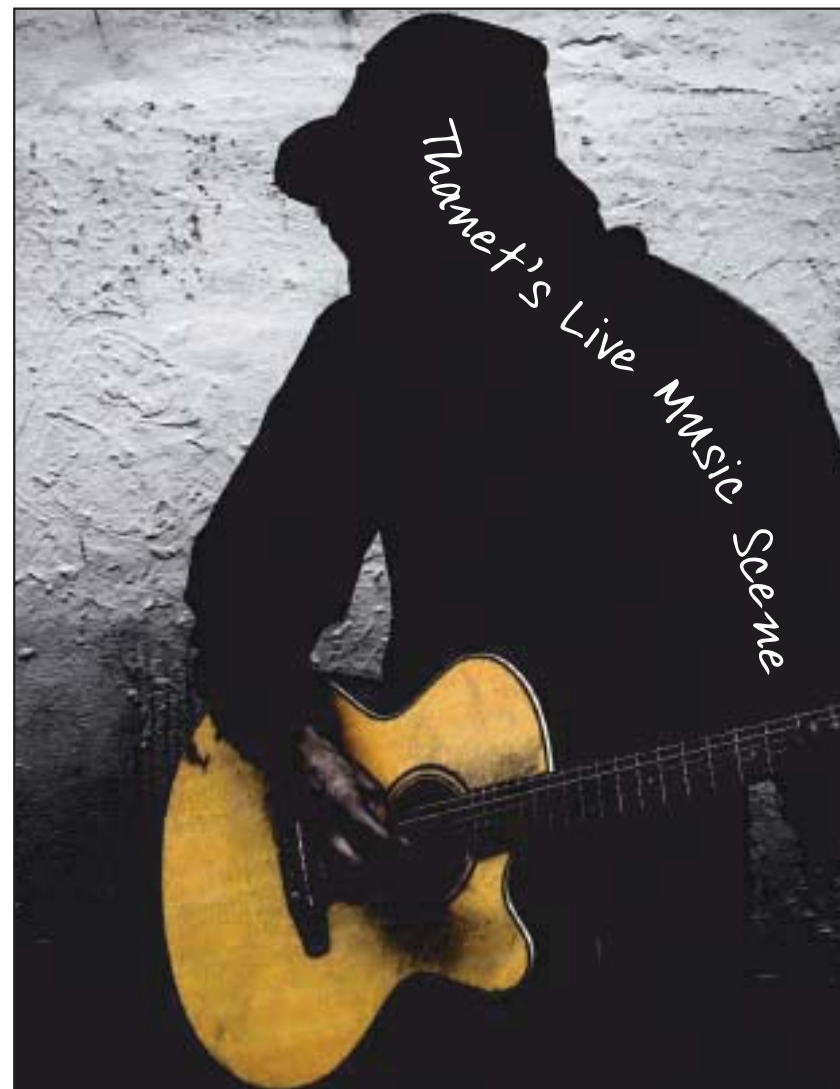


ADMISSION PRICES:
 Adults: **£6.00**
 Children: **£3.00**
 Child under 6: **FREE**



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

www.the-secretgardens.co.uk



Friday 11th June

Led Gremlin

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
 Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 12th June

EK1

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
 Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 12th June

Werthers Originals

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 Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 18th June

Cultured Pearl

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
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Saturday 19th June

Captain Mildred

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
 Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 19th June

Tortilla Army

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Friday 25th June

V Twins

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
 Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 26th June

Medicine

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Saturday 26th June

Situation Vacant

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
 Broadstairs 01843 861108

Friday 2nd July

Where's My Thing

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
 Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 3rd July

Cold Shots

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
 Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 9th July

Moscow Riley

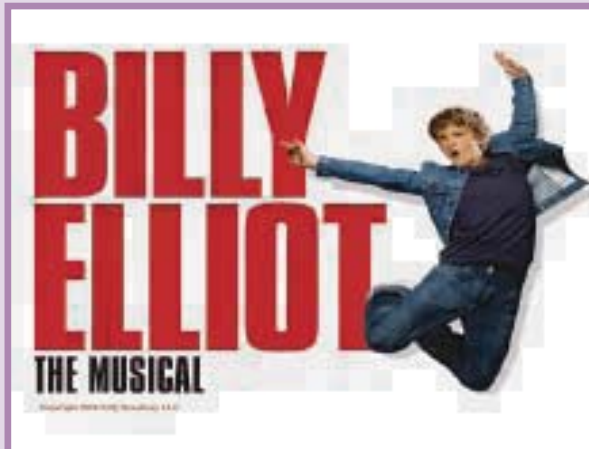
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BILLY ELLIOT

Monday, June 14, to Saturday, June 19, Granville Theatre, Ramsgate



A YOUNG boy battles against the odds to follow his dream in the hugely popular musical, Billy Elliot.

Stage Door Theatre Company presents the show in collaboration with Billy Youth Theatre, a new initiative which gives local companies the chance to perform the international award-winning musical.

Set during the miners' strike of the 80s, Billy Elliot follows the story of a boy who discovers dance and dreams of a stage career. But growing up in the north-east, he faces the disapproval of his family and fears that his desire will

never be realised.

This story of hope and the potential of us all to live creatively fulfilling lives has been an enormous success. As part of the initiative, Stage Door's director Heidi Moran and musical director Edward Greenhalgh took part in a workshop with the people behind the successful London production. There is the possibility that the show could be staged at a major regional theatre and even be performed at the Billy Youth Theatre West End Gala in July.

To book tickets, call the box office on 01843 591750.



D-DAY RIDE OUT

Saturday, June 12, & Sunday, June 14, Folkestone and France



BIKERS are invited to help raise money for charity by taking part in the Aspire D-Day Ride Out this weekend.

About 200 bikers on all sorts of machines are expected to join the ride from Folkestone to Le Touquet in France, via the Eurotunnel, as they commemorate the D-Day landings. Not only will riders have the chance to enjoy a great trip, they will also be raising funds for Aspire, a national spinal cord injury charity.

The charity event has been organised by Aspire, along with Knobbies, GB Riders and

EuroK motorcycle clubs. Joining the ride are two bikers with spinal injuries – Steve Smithers was paralysed at the age of 37 after a motorcycle accident and Steve Booker suffered an injury at 28 while racing. Both have retained their love of motorcycles and will be joining the fun during this uplifting event that aims to raise both funds and awareness.

Entry costs £55 for bikes and £75 for trikes, with free entry for pillion riders. To find out more, visit www.aspire.org.uk/bikers, email bikers@aspire.org.uk or call 020 8420 8951.

LADYBOYS OF BANGKOK

Wednesday, June 16,
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone



EXPERIENCE an exotic evening of music, glamour and femininity when the Lady Boys of Bangkok return to Folkestone.

Dressed in lavish costumes and moving with remarkable grace, these performers are stunning showgirls with a twist – each and every one is a Thai male. Audiences struggle to believe their eyes as the beautiful dancers on stage bring this glamorous and funny review show to life.

Seen by more than one million people, the Lady Boys of Bangkok are renowned for their wit and their fun approach to entertainment, along with their captivating looks. In this spectacular production, they combine the glitz of Las Vegas with the exotic intrigue of Bangkok nightlife.

Prepare to be dazzled and amazed by the outrageously extravagant show, which boasts more than 400 new costumes. The Fantasy and Feathers Tour promises an outstanding party night that will not be forgotten by audiences for a very long time.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £20/£18. To book, call the box office on 0844 847 1776 or visit the website at www.leascliffhall.org.uk.



MURDER MYSTERY

Sunday, June 13,
Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs



SEE if you can spot the culprit as the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club hosts a thrilling murder mystery.

Set in 1940, The Home Guard Murder – Careless Talk Costs Lives is a comic whodunnit that will give amateur sleuths the chance to get their little grey cells working.

Nervous about the possibility of attack from the continent, residents of Broadstairs decide to form their own Home Guard.

Any members of the audience who would like to enlist in the Broadstairs Observation On Beaches Squadron, or BOOBS, can join the local misfits to be inspected by Major Bore. Pub landlord Ed Aches will also be there, along with nurse Ophelia Bitz but, just as recruits attempt to pass muster, a nasty murder takes place and the audience must work out who committed the crime. There will be a prize for the best 1940s costume and most original wartime picnic.

The Perfectly Dreadful Murder Company's show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £8 for club members or £10 for non-members, who must book at least 24 hours in advance. To book, call 0845 262 6263.



ETIENNE PRADIER

Monday, June 14, Sinden Theatre, Tenterden



INTERNATIONAL magician Etienne Pradier lends his support to Kent Air Ambulance with a special performance.

The Ashford-based showman will bring out his box of tricks to help support the fundraising efforts of staff at the charity's Marden headquarters. In November, staff members hope to embark on a bike ride around Cuba to mark the Kent Air Ambulance Trust's 20th anniversary. They aim to raise £20,000 for the trust, which needs £1.7million per year to keep its life-saving helicopters airborne.

During his glittering career, Pradier has performed in glamorous cities all over the world, including Las Vegas, Paris, Singapore, Los Angeles, Zurich, Hong Kong and Madrid. He has performed his breathtaking illusions for celebrities and even royalty – last summer he entertained Prince Charles at Highgrove.

Voted the Magic Circle Close-Up Magician of the Year in 2000, Pradier is an extremely gifted performer and the Tenterden audience can look forward to a really magical treat next week.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £15. To book, call the Kent Air Ambulance box office on 01622 833833. There will also be a raffle and refreshments available.



Book your tickets online at www.miles-of-smiles.org.uk

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The Flack • Radio Riot • 1000 lights • 10p Short
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	HOW THE KOALA LEARNT TO HUG Sun 27th June 3pm £5 Family and Friends Ticket £20 for 5 People	
	London Classic Theatre with PINTER'S THE CARETAKER Sat 3rd July 7.30pm £14/12 Free to U26s (limited)	Alice in Wonderland ALL TICKETS £10 Book 01843 1100 1700 or 01227 7077707 www.theatreroyalmargate.com

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MURDER MYSTERY EVENING Popular evening of mystery, intrigue & fun, set in WWII, can you workout Who Dunnit! Licenced Bar available. Sunday 13rd June at 7.30pm	BENEFIT CONCERT FOR HAITI Music, poetry & dance, launching the anthology Poems for Haiti. With soprano Karisla Mounty, singer-guitarist Sam Palacios and a line up of poets Saturday 26th June at 7.00pm
THE YOUNG DAVID COPPERFIELD An STTC Junior production adapted from the Dickens novel, directed by Kim Bourne for Dickens Week. Sat 19 June at 7.30pm, Sun 20 June at 2.30pm	SPRING CLASSICAL CONCERT 3 Hannah Lang (flute) and Peter Hewitt (piano) playing works from BACH, MOZART & FAURE. Sunday 27th June at 3.30pm
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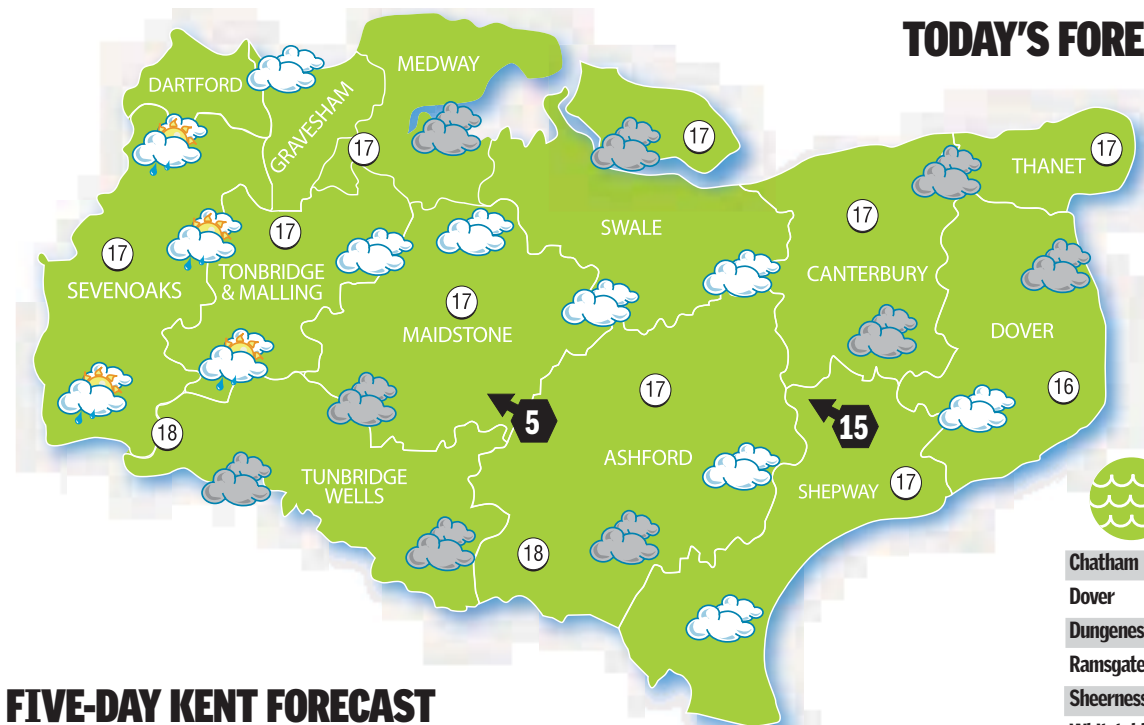


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TODAY'S FORECAST



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY




Amsterdam	16°C	Madrid	29°C
Athens	26°C	New York	33°C
Barcelona	23°C	Paris	21°C
Beijing	29°C	Rome	26°C
Bombay	32°C	Sydney	15°C
Cape Town	17°C	Tenerife	24°C
Cardiff	15°C	Tokyo	27°C
Gibraltar	24°C	Vancouver	14°C
Hong Kong	29°C	Warsaw	26°C
Las Palmas	24°C	Wellington	11°C



KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	1:29pm 5.8m	Sunday	2:12pm 5.9m
Dover	Saturday	11:35am 6.3m	Sunday	12:22pm 6.5m
Dungeness	Saturday	11:46am 7.3m	Sunday	12:26pm 7.5m
Ramsgate	Saturday	12:05pm 4.8m	Sunday	12:52pm 5.0m
Sheerness	Saturday	1:19pm 5.6m	Sunday	2:02pm 5.7m
Whitstable	Saturday	1:15pm 5.0m	Sunday	2:00pm 5.1m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon											Wintstable	Saturday					11:5pm	5:0m	Sunday	2:00pm		5:1m	
Ashtford	17°C	17°C	17°C	18°C	20°C	Dover	16°C	17°C	16°C	16°C	17°C	Gravesend	18°C	19°C	17°C	19°C	20°C	Sevenoaks	16°C	17°C	15°C	17°C	19°C		SUNRISE	4.38am	SUNSET	9.11pm
Canterbury	18°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	Faversham	17°C	17°C	17°C	18°C	18°C	Maidstone	18°C	19°C	17°C	18°C	20°C	Sittingbourne	17°C	17°C	17°C	18°C	18°C					
Chatham	17°C	17°C	17°C	18°C	18°C	Folkstone	16°C	17°C	16°C	16°C	17°C	Ramsgate	18°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	Tonbridge	17°C	18°C	17°C	18°C	20°C		MOONRISE	2.15am	MOONSET	6.13pm
Dartford	18°C	19°C	17°C	19°C	20°C	Gillingham	17°C	17°C	17°C	18°C	18°C	Rochester	17°C	17°C	17°C	18°C	18°C	Tun Wells	17°C	18°C	17°C	18°C	20°C					



SUNRISE 4.38am **SUNSET** 9.11pm



MOONRISE 2.15am **MOONSET** 6.13pm



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Mappin & Webb, Goldsmiths, H Samuel or Ernest Jones. Pick up the latest Apple kit from Stormfront or boost your CD, DVD or video games collection with the latest titles from HMV. The choice is yours!

For a chance of winning this fabulous prize, simply answer the question below and send your entry form on the right to Whitefriars Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

Closing date for receipt of entries is 23 June 2010.

Question: How many leading brands are there in Whitefriars?

Rules

1. No purchase necessary.
2. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence can be entered into.
3. The prize is £500 of vouchers to spend in participating Whitefriars Canterbury stores only.
4. There is no cash alternative.
5. All entries must be received by June 23, 2010.



Answer:

Name:

Dad's Name:

Telephone:

Email:

Postcode:

Sex: ☐ Female ☐ Male

Age: ☐ 24 and under

☐ 25-34

☐ 35-44

☐ 45-54

☐ 55+

☐ Please tick here if you do NOT wish to be kept informed of news and special offers at Whitefriars by email.

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Wheatus to play extra night, fact



TEENAGE DIRTBAGS: US soft-rockers Wheatus will be at The Forum this month

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

LIFE is all about learning, so I'm told, and every day we're bound to learn something new.

Sometimes the new information is interesting, quirky or random enough to be deemed worth sharing with colleagues, loved ones or guests at dinner parties.

The feedback from such outbursts is often varied.

For instance, did you know that Mel Blanc, who provided the voice for Bugs Bunny, was ironically allergic to carrots?

If not, then congratulations, you've learned something new today. Whether you were impressed by this nugget of new information is a different matter.

Either way, feel free to enlighten/bore someone else with this random trivia.

Sadly, as you get older, the frequency of interesting new information declines.

Every so often, though, a real gem will appear from nowhere.

I had the good fortune to learn something random last week, while I was scouring emails and internet message boards to find a subject for this very column.

A quick click on the Tunbridge Wells Forum website revealed that – owing to huge demand – a second Wheatus date had been added to the venue's calendar.

And there it was – who knew Kent had so many Wheatus fans? Up until that point I was blissfully unaware that our green and pleasant county is home to so many Teenage Dirtbags.

It's important to remember that Wheatus have scored just two UK chart successes since starting out 15 years ago.

The American soft-rockers' hits were Teenage Dirtbag, the lyrics of which have somehow burned themselves into my mind, and A Little Respect, a pop cover of Erasme's classic single.

But who am I to judge?

All that matters is that I now know that Kent has a truck-load

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ON: Whitstable outfit Flips with perform their track Position Politician



SMALL GIG: Smugglers Records at the Tom Thumb Theatre, Cliftonville



UNSIGNED CHART

- 1 Craig Sheridan – Aurora (from Deal)
- 2 Craig Sheridan – Winter Sunn (from Deal)
- 3 Shelta – We Can make It (from Bexley)
- 4 Ron Bowdery – The Hooray Henries (from New Eltham)
- 5 I.R.I.S – Aversion To Light (from Deal)

of Wheatus fans.

Too many, in fact, to fit inside The Forum for their gig on Monday, June 21.

All of which convinced venue bosses to add a second date the following night, tickets for which are on sale now at £10 each.

Support on the night comes from MC Frontalot, Strong Like Bull and Jed Grayston.

For more information, visit www.twforum.co.uk.



BY THE SEASIDE: With its spectacular beaches, historic attractions and range of outdoor pursuits, Jersey offers adventures for all the family

yourgetaways

Get all the fun and sun of the continent, just an hour away

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

ASK someone about Jersey and you may not always get a straightforward answer, such is its place in both history and geography.

The largest of the Channel Islands, it is closest to Britain in terms of culture and politics but is virtually on the doorstep of France, with much of its vocabulary derived from the Norman tongue.

What was once the centre of many battles between the two now represents the best of each country's merits, ranging from sandy beaches to outdoor activities and great eateries.

A comfortable flight time of about an hour from Lydd airport, the healthier, sunnier climate is noticeable as soon as you land, thanks to the nearby Gulf Stream.

My first port of call was St Brelades Bay on the south side, only a few minutes' drive from the airport yet wonderfully secluded.

After a tasty, healthy lunch of crab risotto overlooking the beach, a quick walk around the picturesque church and Fisherman's Chapel gives a sense of the history that pervades this small island.

I had a particular family interest in this as my great-grandfather was a sail-maker who hailed from Jersey.

On closer inspection, I found a Nicholas Alexandre inscribed as one of the former rectors of the church, dating from the 16th Century.

There is plenty of choice for thrill-seekers, from sand-yachting to kayaking, and the daredevil in me went for the abseiling.

Instructor John Fox, who runs Jersey Adventures, was friendly and helpful, showing me how to handle the ropes as I gradually made my way down the side of one of the

FACT FILE: JERSEY

Admin centre	St Helier
Languages	English and Jèrriais
Population	92,000
Currency	BP Sterling
Religion	Christianity



James Alexandre travelled with Jersey Tourism and CI Travel Group. Weekly flights depart Lydd airport July 10-September 4, at 12.50pm and 2pm, leaving Jersey at 11.15am and 12.20pm. A service runs from Manston airport (www.kentinternationalairport-manston.com). Seven-night holiday from £299 per person per week. To find out more, visit www.discoverjersey.com or phone 0844 4156653. Activities: outdoor pursuits (www.jerseyadventures.com), cycling (www.cycleinjersey.com), Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (www.durrell.org), Jersey War Tunnels (www.jerseywartunnels.com). James stayed at the Hotel de France, St Saviour's Road, St Helier JE1 7XP (01534 614000 www.defrance.co.uk) and ate at The Boat House, 1 North Quay, St Aubin (01534 744226) and Saffrons, Hotel de France

many old German war forts dotted around the coast.

The picture-postcard setting of Corbiere lighthouse greets you as you make your way round the south-western tip to St Ouen's Bay.

Its stunning beach stretches for miles, making it a surfers' paradise. The Michelin-recommended El Tico cantina is perfectly placed to make the most of the Atlantic views.

A leisurely morning cycle-ride along some of Jersey's dedicated 'green lanes' is a great way to experience the countryside up close.

Blue Badge guide Arthur Lamy offers scenic tours of varying difficulty, including an introductory one that takes you from the centre of St Helier through to Gorey, home of Jersey Pottery and a great place to buy both lunch and a memento.

For families and animal-lovers, the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust offers a great chance to see first-hand the work being done to

help endangered species.

The Jersey War Tunnels capture the impact of the five-year German occupation, where you can go through the deep underground complex.

In the administrative centre of St Helier, the Victorian and fish markets offer a chance to savour some of today's island living, together with numerous shops and cafés leading to and from the Royal Square.

An exhibition on the life of Marilyn Monroe is on display at the Jersey Museum until September, while other highlights include a 19th-century merchant's house.

The four-star Hotel de France in St Helier has excellent spa facilities, and two restaurants – the contemporary Café Aroma and the fine Indian cuisine at Saffrons.

With so much on offer and to explore, Jersey is a welcome break in a climate free from the hassle of Continental travel but with the sunshine associated with going abroad.

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52 02	PEUGEOT 206 1.6 HATCHBACK, 5 door finished in Metallic Silver, central locking, front and rear electric windows, electric mirrors, power assisted steering, twin airbags, CD radio stereo with controls on steering wheel, seat height adjuster, air con, blue cloth upholstery, head lamp adjustment, front fog lamps.....	£3195.00
X 00	PEUGEOT 206 1.2 LX, 5 door hatchback finished in metallic silver, power assisted steering, remote central locking, twin airbags, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, blue cloth upholstery trim, parcel shelf.....	£2395.00
X 01	NISSAN 1.0 MICRA S, 3 door hatchback finished in blueish mauve, remote mirrors, power assisted steering, drivers airbag, 5 speed gear box, stereo, lots of Nissan service history, dark/light grey upholstery, parcel shelf.....	£1795.00
04 04	MG 1.4 ZR+ 105, 3 door hatchback finished in Metallic Racing Green, remote central locking, electric windows, electric mirrors, Kenwood stereo system, drivers airbag, power assisted steering, bucket style racing seats, finished in green/black check cloth and leather upholstery, headlamp adjuster, seat height adjuster, parcel shelf, spoke alloy wheels, front fog lamps, rear spoiler, service history.....	£3495.00
W 00	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.4S, 3 door hatchback finished in Metallic Black, remote central locking, clifford alarm system, electric windows, electric mirrors, twin airbags, electric sun roof, power assisted steering, CD stereo system, 5 speed gearbox, Black/Grey cloth upholstery, parcel shelf.....	£3495.00
N 95	TOYOTA RAV-4 GX 2.0 4X4, finished in White, central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, electric sunroof, SRS airbag, power assisted steering, headlamp adjuster, Kenwood CD stereo system, Black cloth upholstery, alloy wheel.....	£3295.00
Y 01	VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.4 S, 3door hatchback finished in blue, electric windows, electric mirrors, twin airbags, power assisted steering, 5 speed gear box, Kenwood CD stereo system, service history, black cloth upholstery, parcel shelf.....	£2795.00
R98	FORD FIESTA 1.3 SI, 5 door, hatchback, finished in green, central locking, electric windows, remote mirrors, sunroof, drivers airbag, power assisted steering, steering wheel height adjuster, stereo system, light grey cloth upholstery, 5 speed gear box, parcel shelf, front fog lamps, service history.....	£1495.00
X 00	ROVER 25 1.6V 1.4, 3 door hatchback, finished in White, 1 owner, drivers airbag, radio stereo system, power assisted steering, walnut inlay, Black cloth, upholstery, headlamp adjuster, rear spoiler.....	£1795.00
51 01	CHRYSLER PT CRUISER 2.0 LTD EDITION, finished in Metallic Blue, 1 owner, central locking, electric windows, electric mirrors, power assisted steering, CD stereo, cruise control, leather/suede upholstery, air conditioning, chrome alloy wheels, parcel shelf, front fog lamps.....	£3295.00
T 99	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 LS 8V, 5 door hatchback finished in green, remote central locking, remote mirrors, electric windows, twin airbags, stereo controls on steering wheel, 5 speed gearbox, power assisted steering, sunroof, black cloth upholstery, full Vauxhall service history, parcel shelf.....	£1995.00
Y 01	FORD FOCUS 2.0 GHIA, 5 door, hatchback, finished in black, remote central locking, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, CD stereo system with controls on steering wheel, twin airbags, walnut inlay, front and rear heated screens, black cloth upholstery, power assisted steering, alloy wheels, parcel shelf, lots of service history.....	£2695.00
03 03	CITROEN C3 1.4 DESIRE, 5 door hatchback finished in metallic light blue, remote central locking, twin airbags, power assisted steering, electric windows, remote mirrors, cd stereo, blue cloth upholstery, parcel shelf.....	£3495.00
R 97	FORD FIESTA 1.4 SIZETEC, 5 door, hatchback, finished in blue, central locking, electric windows, remote mirrors, drivers SRS airbag, power assisted steering, 5 speed gearbox, stereo system, sunroof, steering wheel height adjuster, grey cloth upholstery, parcel shelf, service history.....	£1695.00
53 03	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE, 5 door hatchback finished in silver, remote central locking, keycard, electric mirrors, electric windows, twin airbags, electric sun roof, power assisted steering, CD stereo with controls on steering wheel, alloy wheels, air con, black cloth upholstery, parcel shelf.....	£3995.00
W 00	FORD FOCUS 1.8 GHIA TD, 5 door hatchback finished in blue, remote central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, drivers airbag, walnut dash, black cloth upholstery, air con, stereo, power assisted steering, alloy wheels, front fog lamps, parcel shelf.....	£2895.00
P 97	JAGUAR 4.0 SOVEREIGN, automatic finished in silver, remote alarm central locking, power assisted steering, airbags, memory seat controls, cruise control, air con, rear and front heated screens, cream leather upholstery, service history, alloy wheels, front fog lamps.....	£3995.00
P 96	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.9 CL TDI, 5 door hatchback, finished in red, remote central locking, twin airbags, power assisted steering, electric windows, electric sunroof, air conditioning, grey cloth upholstery, stereo, alloy wheels, parcel shelf, lots of service history, arriving shortly.....	EPOA

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500, 16v, 2008, black, 7811 miles,
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steering trip computer remote central
locking, black, 6841 miles, £7580,
Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

ACCORD, 2.2EXEC SATNAV/HFT, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags remote central locking, nighthawk black, 16000 miles, £14500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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SAAB 9-3 1.9TD Vector Sport, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Diesel, 2006 56 Reg. 112,000 miles, Metallic grey. Heated door mirrors, Folding rear seats, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Cruise control, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Front electric windows, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, ABS, Sports seats, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Passenger airbag, Reverse parking aid, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Anti theft system, Adjustable steering column/wheel, Child locks, Leather seat trim, Service indicator, Park distance control, Locking wheel nuts, Trip computer, Navigation system, Multi function steering wheel, Space saver spare wheel, Electric mirrors, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Front armrest, Rear armrest, PAS, Air conditioning, CD, Central locking, Climate Control, Colour coded - Body, Foglights, Full Service History, Insurance Group:12, Fully integrated Navigation system, Mobile phone Bluetooth connection, Business Pack 6 Speed gearbox, **£7,195**

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SAAB 9-3 1.8T Linear Sport 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol, 2005 05 Reg. 63,277 miles, Metallic Grey, 2 Owners.
Heated door mirrors, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Cruise control, Front electric windows, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Multi function steering wheel, Audio remote control, ABS, Cloth seat trim, Front head restraints, Front fog lights, Passenger airbag, Reverse parking aid, Remote central locking, Height adjustable drivers seat, Drivers airbag, Service indicator, Cloth upholstery, Trip computer, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Front armrest, Part Service History, Rear armrest, PAS, Air conditioning, Central locking, Climate Control, Computer, Park distance control, Power assisted steering, Remote locking, Insurance Group 12..... **£6,395**

2000 X Reg SAAB 9-5 2.0T SE, 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 118,000 miles, Metallic blue, ABS, Passenger airbag, Roof rails, Radio/CD, Cruise control, Folding rear seats, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Full Electric pack, Leather seat trim, Drivers airbag, Computer, Trip computer, Traction control, Climate Control, Body coloured bumpers, PAS, Air conditioning, Anti theft system, Leather upholstery, Multi function steering wheel, Power assisted steering, Remote locking. Insurance Group:13E, New Fully Reconditioned Engine fitted by us. New Clutch.£3,495

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PROPERTY NEWS

Kickstart programme and housing projects come to a standstill

THE Homes and Communities Agency has said it will put on hold spending decisions on social-housing projects and its Kickstart programme, which invests in restarting mothballed private-housing developments.

The move comes after it emerged that £780 million of previously-agreed funding may be pulled as part of £6.2bn spending cuts announced by Chancellor George Osborne.

The HCA was told to cut £230m from its budget. The agency has confirmed this will lead to £100m being chopped from the £2.4bn social-housing programme and £50m from Kickstart's £420m budget for this year.

Recession

The department has also been told that £780m of funding for its projects is under review, with a final decision to be outlined in Mr Osborne's Budget on Tuesday, June 22.

Stewart Baseley, chairman of the Home Builders Federation, called the decisions "a cut on investment not waste".

He said: "Public money invested through Kickstart pulled in many more times than private-sector investment – which will now be lost to the economy."

The Kickstart programme was announced in last year's Budget in an attempt to bolster housebuilders who had halted housing construction in the midst of the recession.

Merged providers offer a great mortgage deal

THE Co-operative Bank and Britannia have launched a new five-year mortgage at a fixed rate of 3.99 per cent.

The mortgage is available to homeowners with a deposit of at least 25 per cent.

Borrowers taking out the mortgage are required to pay a £999 fee.

The two providers, which merged last year, also announced a two-year fixed-rate mortgage at 2.95 per cent, also requiring a 25 per cent deposit and with a £999 fee.

John Hughes, Co-operative spokesman, said: "Not only do these mortgages offer extremely attractive rates, they also provide customers with the added benefits of our consistently high levels of customer service."



FLASHBACK: The house-price boom is unlikely ever to return but there have been increasingly strong signs that the housing market in Britain is at last starting to pick up again

Number of buyers hots up for brighter outlook

■ BY NICK AMES

THE property market continued its recovery in May despite gloomy predictions that the election would deter both buyers and sellers from entering the market.

But there are signs that the rises may be levelling off to reflect a slower growth in house prices even though more people are buying compared with a year ago.

Nationwide said that house prices rose 1 per cent in April and were up more than 10 per cent on a year ago.

Figures published by the Department for Communities and Local Government showed house prices went up by 0.7 per cent in March, the fifth consecutive month of increases.

Lending figures were also published by the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

They suggested housing-market activity bounced back during March with a 25 per cent jump in the number of mortgages advanced to people buying a property.

Some 45,000 mortgages were lent for house purchase during the month, up from 36,000 in February.

Rightmove said a smaller increase

last month suggested the past year's rise in house prices could be cooling off. It said asking prices rose by 0.7 per cent in May compared with 2.6 per cent in April, causing the annual rate of increase to slow to 4.3 per cent from 6 per cent.

Findaproptty.com showed that the average UK asking price rose for the fourth consecutive month with a 0.6 per cent rise in the past month, up to £219,748 from £218,475.

On an annual basis, average prices have climbed 1.8 per cent from £215,761 in May 2009.

The number of properties for sale jumped 8 per cent in May, the fourth consecutive month of rising stock levels in 2010.

Its survey said eight in ten people were searching for a property, pledging to continue their search despite the election and three-quarters said that the election result would not stop them buying a property.

Last week, Property For Kent reported that house prices were climbing at their fastest rate since October 2007 in year-on-year comparisons.

Figures from the Council of Mortgage lenders showed that house prices were becoming more affordable, with the cost of the average first-time home 4.9 times the annual earnings of the household compared with 5.5 times at the end of 2008.



LETTING PROPERTY: RICS is optimistic that rents will continue to rise

Rent-recovery rise starts due to the lack of supply

THERE were encouraging signs of recovery in the letting market this week, with rents looking to begin rising again.

A lack of supply is pushing residential real-estate rents higher, signalling a revival in the lettings market, according to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

The net balance of chartered surveyors reporting rising, rather than falling,

rents rose from zero to 30 per cent, a marked contrast to April last year, when 58 per cent more chartered surveyors were reporting falling rents, an all-time low for the survey.

Surveyors are optimistic that rents will continue to rise, with the rental expectations' net balance climbing to 36 per cent, the highest figure recorded in the survey's history.

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Minster On Sea,

- Three bedroom detached house
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen,
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£210,000

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Sheerness

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Guide Price £200,000

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Kemsley

- Link detached property
- Three bedrooms bathroom
- Lounge, dining area, kitchen,

OIEO £170,000

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Iwade

- Modern cottage style
- two bedroom semi-detached house
- Lounge/diner, kitchen,

OIEO £165,000

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Sheerness,

- Extended terrace house.
- Three bedrooms,
- Lounge/diner, kitchen

OIEO £145,000

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Sittingbourne

- Three bedroom semi detached home
- Three reception rooms,
- Kitchen, bathroom.

OIEO £140,000

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Minster on Sea,

- End of terrace house
- Kitchen, lounge/diner,
- Three bedrooms & bathroom.

OIEO £130,000

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Sheerness,

- Three bedroom semi detached house.
- Lounge, dining room,
- Cloak room, kitchen & bathroom.

OIEO £120,000

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Teynham

- Two bedroom mid terrace house
- Open plan lounge/diner,
- Refitted kitchen, bathroom,

OIEO £125,000

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Sittingbourne

- Three bedroom townhouse.
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sittingbourne@bairstoweves.co.uk

Countrywide

Chatham



Guide Price £115,000

Modern fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom, open plan lounge diner, good size rear garden, loft conversion.

Strood



Asking Price £129,995

Three bed house. Double glazing, gas fired central heating, 18ft lounge, kitchen, utility room, bathroom.

Hoo



Asking Price £130,000

The property consists of a lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms and a delightful upstairs bathroom.

Rochester



£160,000

Lounge, kitchen/diner, cloakroom, three bedrooms, family bathroom, garage plus off road parking.

Rochester



£164,995

Two bed Victorian terraced house. Two receptions, two double beds, separate upstairs bathroom and a cellar.

Wainscott



£164,995

Two bed first floor maisonette, open plan lounge/dining room, kitchen and bathroom, allocated off road parking.

Wainscott



Offers Over £200,000

Three bed semi detached. Lounge/diner, kitchen, conservatory, family bathroom, front and rear gardens.

Rochester



£200,000

Three bed house with garage and driveway. Lounge, kitchen, conservatory, downstairs bathroom, garden.

Hoo



Offers Over £200,000

Terrace house with separate lounge and dining rooms, a well equipped modern kitchen.

Cliffe Woods



Offers in the region of £245,000

Positioned on a generous corner plot, it benefits from a cloakroom, lounge, dining area, conservatory, kitchen.

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Singleton (3 Bed + Gge) £179,995



Willesborough (3 Bed) £169,995



Singleton (1 Bed) OIEO £110,000

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NEW
INSTRUCTIONS



WALKING DISTANCE FROM TOWN

There is a garage and off road parking with this semi detached house which has some original features inc sash windows fireplaces and boarded floors. Two beds open plan sitting room.

PRICE £155,000



WILLESBOROUGH LEES

Executive detached property in sought after area, four beds, master en suite, sitting room, sep dining room, kitchen, u/room, bathroom, double ggs, dble drive, well pres, must be seen.

OIEO £340,000



KENNINGTON

Detached property, four bedrooms (master with en suite), cloakroom sitting room, dining room, kitchen with utility area, bathroom, double garage, gas heating, double glazing.

£365,000

NEW
INSTRUCTIONS



WILLESBOROUGH

Individual detached family home offering good size rooms throughout many rooms being dual aspect sitting room separate dining room kitchen / breakfast room utility room

PRICE £228,995

SOLD



SINGLETON

Four bed link detached home features large master bedroom with en suite, kitchen, u/room, sitting room, sep dining room, main bathroom, cul de sac, d/glazed, gas heating, drive and gge.

£249,995



NEW
INSTRUCTIONS

SINGLETON

Planning permission passed to provide a two storey side extension to enlarge this three bedroom chalet sitting room separate dining room kitchen / breakfast ground floor bathroom

PRICE £155,000



CLOSE TO TOWN

Two bedroom mid terr hse. kitchen sitting room bathroom two allocated parking spaces gas heating d/glazing no chain.

£143,995



KENNINGTON

Study, sitting room, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, d/glazed gas heating, courtyard with storage shed, good sized garden, no chain.

£145,000



SELLINDGE

Good sized one (double) bed ground floor flat, large sitting room, kitchen, bathroom, gas heating, double glazed, allocated parking, no chain.

£117,500



WILLESBOROUGH

First floor flat two bedrooms, sitting room kitchen bathroom, gas heating double glazing, off road parking, rear garden.

£115,000



KNIGHTS PARK

Situated in small cul de sac detached three bedroom house (master en suite) sitting room dining room kitchen utility room cloakroom bathroom garage parking rear garden not overlooked.

£239,995



WYE

Two double bedroom bungalow sitting room kitchen shower room conservatory / sun room double glazed walking distance from local shops.

£175,000



KENNINGTON

Detached house, three bedrooms (master en suite), open plan sitting room / dining room, kitchen, bathroom, cloakroom, gas heating, d/glazing, no chain.

£214,995



WILLESBOROUGH

You can see Willesborough and the North Downs from this first floor maisonette, one bed (double), kitchen, sitting room, bathroom, double glazed, gas heating, use of large comm gds, parking.

£115,000



WILLESBOROUGH

Loft void fully boarded with rooflight and own stair access, bay windowed vic cott home, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, two bedroom, first floor bathroom, gas heating, double glazings.

£149,995



KENNINGTON

End terrace house, three bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen/diner, bathroom, gas heating, d/glazing, well placed for local shops and schools, 16'5" x 7'4" conservatory.

£139,995

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Senior & General Appointments 41-44



changing lives
reducing crime

Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders.

Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19 years / adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment.

As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people.

We have the following vacancies at our Newbridge House Centre Chatham:

TRAINER

£17,834 pa

We hold contracts for Entry to Employment (e2e) and Schools to deliver programmes which engage and develop young people in order that they may progress into Employment, Training or Further Education.

We are looking for an individual to join our staff team who is enthusiastic, lively and creative. You will be someone with experience/qualifications in Personal and Social areas so that we can expand our programme for young people.

You will be required to work as part of a team and under your own initiative.

Experience in employer engagement, inductions and reviews would also be desirable.

KEY SKILLS TRAINER (part time) 16hrs

£17,834pa(pro-rata)

This role is to provide high quality Key Skills for Life for young people aged 16-19. You must have good administrative skills and record keeping and ability to produce reports and monitoring of all information. Good time management is a must as well as to be able to communicate effectively at all levels verbally and in writing.

You will be required to work as part of a team and under your own initiative.

Experience of challenging behaviour would be an advantage.

We have the following vacancies at our Sittingbourne Centre:

YOUTH WORKER (part time) 18hrs ESF Switched On Project

£7,946

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who can motivate and engage young people between the ages of 14-16 on short motivational courses. You will need to be willing to travel to deliver the courses in various locations across Kent.

PROJECT WORKER x 2 ESF TIE Project (full time)

£17,834 pa

We are looking for an individual to join our staff team who is enthusiastic, lively and creative. You will be someone with experience/qualifications in Personal and Social areas so that we can expand our programme with 14-19 year old young people. You will need to be willing to travel to deliver the courses in various locations across Kent, and including the Young Offenders Institute in Medway.

These posts could work from our Sittingbourne or Chatham Centres

Closing date for all the above posts is 25 June 2010

Contact Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.

VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for people who like to volunteer to support the learners in our Centres in various roles e.g. mentoring, support for Skills for Life, book keeping and in particular reception type duties. Travel and lunch expenses are paid.

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This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the
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Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at
Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is
paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will
need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

Closing Date: 11th June 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact
Linda Taylor, Business Manager
Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road
Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3SP
(Tel: 01634 338236)

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Ref: P0413

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Ref: P0457

**Salary: £24,096 - £28,963 per annum
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We are looking for an excellent individual to participate in the delivery of Public Services programmes throughout the College. The successful candidate will teach on a range of BTEC / NCFE, and School Links programmes and have a background in Public Services. This post will also involve working with students in sports, expeditions and off-site visits to various Public Services areas.

Lecturer in Health and Social Care

Ref: P0323

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Lecturer in Functional Skills

Ref: P0385

**Salary: £24,096 - £28,963 per annum
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Maidstone**

The College is looking to recruit an outstanding individual to participate in the delivery of Functional Skills programmes across the College. The role will involve embedding Functional Skills within learners' programmes of study and ensuring that learners develop and achieve the skills they need to progress. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Child Care

Ref: P0070

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We are looking for a knowledgeable and experienced candidate to deliver CACHE Child Care programmes at various levels. The successful candidate will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in their teaching methods. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Departmental Administrator

Ref: M0171

**Salary: £15,453 - £17,243 per annum
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Technician in Hair and Beauty

Ref: M0296

**Salary: £15,453 - £17,243 per annum
Fixed Term Maternity Cover
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We are looking for an organised candidate to assist the smooth running of the Hair and Beauty department. Responsibilities will include providing technical support to staff and students and setting-up the classrooms as required. Experience in the industry would be advantageous.

Closing date: Wednesday 16 June 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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CRICKET

BY STEVE TERVET

Upchurch 1st XI v Chestfield 1st XI
Kent League Division Three

TIGHT bowling proved the foundation for a comfortable six-wicket win for Upchurch on Saturday as they easily overhauled Chestfield's score to move fifth in Division Three.

The visitors won the toss and elected to bat, but they failed to cash in as Upchurch's opening bowlers severely restricted their scoring opportunities.

Arthur Boyd (26) and Stephen Cox (27) led the way but with the run-rate painfully slow, Upchurch seized control and the pressure told as wickets began to tumble.

Chestfield eventually crawled along to 135 for 7 from their 50 overs, with Michael Hales junior finishing with figures of 4 for 45 while Adam Hodder took 2 for 14.

With such a measly total to defend, Chestfield took to the field more in hope than expectation but their hearts soared when Michael Hales senior fell to the bowling of Varun Thaker from the very first ball of the Upchurch innings.

Hodder then departed for five but Andrew Shirley steadied the ship and, alongside Theo Barnett, got the Upchurch chase back on track, hitting five boundaries on his way to a fine half-century.

Barnett made 26 before he was out but Lee Stepney joined Shirley to finish the job, guiding Upchurch home in the 26th over as Chestfield fell well short.

Upchurch, who have lost just one of their five games, remain in touch with the leading pack in the division, sitting four points behind fourth-placed Old Colfeians and a further five from Gravesend in third.

Upchurch are on the up after top batting display



VICTORY: Upchurch's bowlers paved the way for a comfortable win, while (inset) skipper Lee Stepney congratulates bowler Marc Bond

SCORE CARD

Chestfield 1st XI

	Runs
Arthur Boyd ct Stepney b Hodder	26
Stephen Cox c & b Hales jnr	27
Michael Ralphs run out	11
Tom Winding ct Shirley b Hales jnr	1
Paul Gibson ct Stepney b Hodder	5
Joshua Lock c & b Hales jnr	3
Shane Moody-Smith c & b Hales jnr	0
Axel Zerb not out	19
Steve Lewis not out	17
Varun Thaker did not bat	
Aaron Ferris did not bat	
Extras (5b 5lb 14w 2nb)	26
Total (7 wickets, 50 overs)	135

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Marc Bond	7	4	9	0
Daniel Parker	4	0	12	0
Theo Barnett	8	0	33	0
Michael Hales jnr	15	2	45	4
Adam Hodder	13	5	14	2
Craig Bewick	3	0	12	0

Upchurch 1st XI

	Runs
Michael Hales ct Moody-Smith b Thaker	0
Andrew Shirley not out	52
Adam Hodder ct Zerb b Lewis	5
Theo Barnett ct Moody-Smith b Lewis	26
Michael Hales jnr st Moody-Smith b Lock	6
Lee Stepney not out	42
Marc Bond did not bat	
Daniel Parker did not bat	
Daniel Mason did not bat	
Alan Collis did not bat	
Craig Bewick did not bat	
Extras (4b 3w)	7
Total (4 wickets, 25.3 overs)	138

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Varun Thaker	5	0	33	1
Steve Lewis	9	0	47	2
Joshua Lock	8	1	31	1
Axel Zerb	1	0	10	0
Arthur Boyd	2.3	0	13	0

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
Gore Court 1st XI v Bexley 1st XI

THE gulf in quality was clear at The Grove on Saturday as Premier Division leaders Bexley crushed Gore Court to win by 173 runs with Alex Blake's century the highlight.

Kent batsman Blake reached 103 before he was caught and bowled by Sahibzada Afridi but George Wells (57) and Stephen Richards (78 not out) helped Bexley along to 340 for 8.

Karl Pearson and Afridi both hit 41 in Court's reply but their efforts were in vain as the last wicket fell with the score on 167.

Bexley 1st XI

	Runs
Alex Kemp	6
Alex Blake	103
Jibran Khan	17
Adam Ball	24
George Wells	57
Stephen Richards	78
Alex Pinnock	18
Gavin Pointer	4
Adam Riley	1
Jason Benn	6
Steven Silver	not out
Extras	26
Total	340

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Adam Collins	5	0	31	1
Paul Muchall	14	0	88	2
Tyler Griffin	5	0	22	0
Sahibzada Afridi	15	0	84	1
Alex Edwards	10	0	65	3
Rob Slater	6	0	42	1

Gore Court 1st XI

	Runs
Karl Pearson	41
Tyler Griffin	5
Paul Muchall	34
Scott Truss	2
Christian Marsh	2
Sahibzada Afridi	41
Rob Slater	2
Steve Salisbury	8
Alex Edwards	0
Jamie Lavers	2
Adam Collins	0
Extras	26
Total	167

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Jason Benn	11	0	40	1
Steven Silver	11	2	39	2
George Wells	6	1	31	2
Alex Blake	7.5	2	28	2
Adam Riley	12	3	22	3

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION TWO
Orpington 1st XI v Minster 1st XI

MINSTER remain bottom of Division Two but their spirits will have been lifted by this impressive 37-run win at Orpington which draws them closer to the sides above.

The visitors were all out for just 151 with Andy Hosker's 37 their most telling contribution as Paul Schmidt took 4 for 33 for Orpington.

However, Orpington failed miserably with the bat and despite 50 from Sam Clarkson, they crumbled to 114 all out in the 37th over.

Minster 1st XI

	Runs
Gareth Whetnall	22
Jordan Weller	3
Mark Tucker	0
Andy Hosker	37
Craig O'Donoghue	3
James White	12
Nathan Nichol	16
Tarique Khan	4
Mike Rees	15
Adil Mohmand	21
Martin Hammond	8
Extras	8
Total	151

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Neil Bradford	15	4	34	2
Paul Schmidt	12.2	3	33	4
Sam Clarkson	10	2	38	1
Stephen Ingram	12	0	42	2

Orpington 1st XI

	Runs
Prince Sterling	12
Alex Watts	27
Christopher Watts	0
Peter Shaw	5
Paul Schmidt	1
David Robinson	3
Sam Clarkson	50
Michael Knight	0
Neil Bradford	7
Stephen Ingram	0
Richard Hall	1
Extras	8
Total	114

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Nathan Nichol	12.5	1	45	2
James White	14.1	6	31	5
Martin Hammond	4.1	2	9	2
Mike Rees	5	0	22	1

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR
Rodmersham 1st XI v Old Wilsonians 1st XI

RODMERSHAM continue to struggle in Division Four following a 106-run defeat to Old Wilsonians, who now top the table after the fifth round of fixtures.

Pasan Weeraratne hit 119 to take the game away from Rodmersham with Suminda Balage Don chipping in with 40 as the visitors finished on 261 for 5.

Rodmersham's top five batsmen all got starts but failed to go on and post big scores and Michael Mitchell took 3 for 25 as they were skittled out for 155.

Old Wilsonians 1st XI

	Runs
Rakesh Joshi	24
Jonathan Rodda	16
Jayant Yewale	8
Pasan Weeraratne	119
Michael Mitchell	15
Kenny Maxwell	5
Suminda Balage Don	40
Ramakrishna Prabhu	not out
Mikail Smith	not out
Simon Wilson	not out
Douglas Forbes	not out
Extras	34
Total	261

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Sandeep Rodrigo	13	1	52	0
Darren Nokes	6	1	16	0
Nazoomi Azhar	15	4	48	3
Kevin Jones	11	0	65	1
Dylan Emmett	4	0	32	0
Matthew Jewiss	1	0	21	0

Rodmersham 1st XI

	Runs
Nick Denly	21
Dave Cogger	31
Kevin Jones	23
Sandeep Rodrigo	20
Liam Foster	23
James Beech	0
Dylan Emmett	2
Matthew Jewiss	2
Nazoomi Azhar	11
Matthew Baker	8
Darren Nokes	not out
Extras	14
Total	155

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Suminda Balage Don	10	1	54	2
Simon Wilson	5	0	35	1
Douglas Forbes	7	3	15	0
Michael Mitchell	7	1	25	3
Pasan Weeraratne	3	1	6	2
Mikail Smith	2	0	7	1

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE
Bromley Town 1st XI v Bapchild 1st XI

STUBBORN Bapchild batting left Bromley Town frustrated on Saturday as the visitors held on to claim a losing draw, although the result leaves them second-bottom.

Bromley were nine wickets down by the time they closed on 223, with William Goodyear top-scoring with 47 and Adam Larking taking 3 for 55.

The hosts were unable to take the last three Bapchild wickets needed for victory, despite the best efforts of Luke Loverage, who finished with figures of 5 for 28.

Bromley Town 1st XI

	Runs
Alex Taylor	27
Paul Slamon	19
Ian Ferrier	21
William Goodyear	47
Matthew Betts	10
Tom Goodyear	0
Thomas Smith	37
Lewis Dicker	8
Luke Loverage	25
Marcus Howarth	2
Ian Porter	not out
Extras	27
Total	223

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Joshua Hunt	7	1	18	0
Alex Ward	10	1	47	2
Adam Larking	15	1	55	3
Ricky Dale	9	2	36	2
Matt Lewis	7	0	35	1
Matthew Barracough	2	0	22	0

Bapchild 1st XI

	Runs
Lee Cogger	7
Ricky Dale	49
Adam Larking	11
Matthew Barracough	20
John Heatley	8
Stephen Goodhue	2
Henry Fairweather	3
Matt Lewis	22
Alex Ward	not out
Nicholas Page	not out
Joshua Hunt	not out
Extras	26
Total	167

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
William Goodyear	10	1	47	1
Ian Porter	15	2	43	1
Matthew Betts	3	0	15	0
Luke Loverage	15	3	28	5
Alex Taylor	6	1	15	0
Lewis Dicker	1	1	0	0

Town close to new blood after Soutan's departure

FOOTBALL

BY STEVE Tervet

JUSTIN Luchford believes he is "very close" to making his first signing of the close-season, following the loss of midfielder Dave Soutan to Whitstable Town.

Soutan, the second player to depart Salters Lane since the Lilywhites sealed promotion to the Ryman League, was hesitant about his future with Faversham immediately after the season and Luchford, though disappointed, was not surprised by his exit.

The Town manager said: "It's always a blow, some players decide to move on and we'll deal with it."

"He was one of the ones who wasn't sure at the end of last season and when someone's not sure, you expect they're probably going to leave. It wasn't a shock, but he's been good for us – I just hope he doesn't come back and score against us."

"I'm very close now to finishing off what I want to bring in. There are several offers on the table and the players I've spoken to have been quite positive. It's not about selling the club to them – that's quite easy – but the thing we're finding is the difference in finances."

"One problem is that Kent League clubs seem to be finding money from somewhere and a lot of clubs are paying a lot more for next season. You do worry about the ambition of players who drop down to the Kent League for



Picture: NICK DUNGAN



Picture: IAN KIRK

EXIT: Dave Soutan's move to Whitstable was a blow, but not a shock for Faversham Town boss Justin Luchford, above

the money. It concerns me and a lot of managers in the Ryman League."

Luchford said he was looking to bring in no more than four new faces, with one rumoured to be Sittingbourne defender Matt Bourne, who would be an ideal replacement for Lee Shearer.

While Faversham will make long journeys to face Bognor Regis Town and Whitehawk among others in Ryman South, they also have a healthy programme of Kent derbies to look forward to. Clashes with Whitstable and Sittingbourne are sure to set fans' pulses rac-

ing, but Luchford admitted the excitement will not stop with the supporters.

He said: "I'm massively looking forward to those games, rubbing shoulders with Jim Ward, Steve Lovell, Mark Patterson and Gary Abbott. They're the games you look forward to and they're important because they're a big part of your budget."

"Those games are the hardest because they're for bragging rights in the county. For anyone trying to win the league, they've got to win it elsewhere because the form book goes out of the window for Kent derbies."

FOOTBALL



Picture: COLIN READ

SOLID: Matt Bourne, left, has been a defensive rock

Top asset Bourne coveted by rivals

WITH Colin Richmond now a Maidstone United player, Sittingbourne manager Gary Abbott faces a battle to hold on to his prize asset – defender Matt Bourne.

Bourne's superb defensive displays last season have attracted attention from the Brickies' Ryman South rivals, and the centre-back must decide whether to push for the play-offs at Bourne Park again or take on a fresh challenge.

Sittingbourne's closest rivals, Faversham Town, are believed to have shown interest in bringing Bourne to Salters Lane, where he would replace Lee Shearer in the Town backline. Another option for Bourne could be a move to Surrey side Metropolitan Police, who finished one place below the Brickies last season.

Abbott said: "I'm hoping we can keep hold of Bourne, but a couple of clubs have come in for him. Met Police would be a bit of a drag for him. Faversham's a bit more local, but does he want to go? I think it's 50-50 right now."

"None of the players have signed league forms yet but I've spoken to most of them. There's still a couple I'm waiting on – Tom [Bradbrook] is going to stay which is a great bonus, and it looks like almost everyone else will stay."

Having learned of Richmond's decision to opt for Ryman Premier football with the Stones, Abbott expressed his disappointment but praised the midfielder's efforts during his time at Bourne Park.

He said: "I pulled him from the reserves when I got the job because I knew straight away he was too good to be playing there."

"We've helped him a lot over the last two years and he's been one of my best players at Sittingbourne. His energy levels are incredible – he's always bombing all over the pitch – although he could do with adding a few more goals."



Picture: ALTHEA RACING

POWERING AHEAD: Shane Byrne is back in the forefront

Byrne gets a grip

SUPERBIKES

WITH the World Superbike season now past its half-way stage, Shane Byrne must hope he has turned a corner after two good rides in Utah last week.

The Sheppey rider has experienced a turbulent campaign, but both he and his Althea Racing team will take heart from two rides at Miller Motorsport which saw him back to something approaching his best.

Having been overshadowed by his teammate, Carlos Checa, for the majority of this season, Byrne finally stole the limelight from the Spaniard as he rode to a sixth-placed finish in race one before finishing one place further back in race two.

Byrne sits 12th in the standings on 81 points after seven races, with six rounds now to come – starting with a trip to the Misano Adriatico circuit in San Marino on June 27.

"The bike felt very good and I was happy with the set-up," Byrne said. "I found the level of grip varied between race one and two. It was better in the first. However, I've taken some good points and this makes me more determined as we enter the second half of the championship."

Woodstock relocation an important point

FOOTBALL

NORTON Sports player-manager Ben Taylor believes relocating to Woodstock Park could be worth an extra eight points in the Kent League next season.

Taylor's side have spent the last two years groundsharing with Herne Bay and they will learn if they can relocate to the ground, in Sittingbourne, next season when the Kent League AGM takes place next Thursday.

Chatham Town and Sittingbourne will both visit Woodstock in pre-season as Taylor's side prepare for another season in the Kent League, while Norton will also face home games against Hollands & Blair and Rye United.

Taylor had also hoped to run out against Whitstable Town and Folkestone Invicta in pre-season but different start dates to the new season look to have cut short those plans.

Norton begin their Kent League programme on August 7, but with the Ryman League not kicking off for another fortnight, Whitstable and Invicta had concerns about arranging friendlies too far ahead of their first league games.

Taylor said: "They're not bad fixtures, we're looking forward to Sittingbourne and Chatham but it'll be a shame if we can't get the games against Whitstable and Folkestone."

"I'm confident we'll keep the same squad,



Picture: IAN KIRK

NEW BLOOD: Ben Taylor will take a look at Ian Batten

player for player. I've got one new signing coming to pre-season, Ian Batten from Whitstable. The way things are going, it's looking like we will be playing at Woodstock and that should allow us to kick on. The squad I've had for the last two years has been unbelievable, but playing at Herne Bay has probably cost us six to eight points."

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